

Trump investigation

Ex-president ordered to answer questions about his business practices. **News, Page 4**

Canada truckers protest

Truckers stand their ground as police threaten to break up protest. **News, Page 4**

State virus numbers drop

Cases, hospitalizations, deaths drop over the past week. **Connecticut, Page 1**

It's going to be windy

Showers ending; very breezy; a high of 57. **Sports, Page 6**

Hartford Courant



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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2022

SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION SCANDAL

Probe centers on alleged meddling

Officials say former Lamont budget officer used leverage to net jobs for contractors of his choice

By Edmund H. Mahony and Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

The city of Hartford hired a new consultant on a school building project — even through it already

had a different consultant under contract for the same work.

Similar issues are becoming public as federal investigators dig in on an investigation focused largely on the state's pricey school construction program — a program

under which the state spends hundreds of millions of dollars annually to reimburse cities and towns for the costs of building and renovating schools.

At the center of the investigation, according to a federal grand jury subpoena served on the state in October, is former state Rep. Konstantinos Diamantis, a Bristol Democrat who ran the Connecti-

cum Office of School Construction Grants & Review. Gov. Ned Lamont fired Diamantis from his position of deputy secretary of the Office of Policy and Management on Oct. 28, days after the subpoena was served.

Municipal school officials have alleged that Diamantis, who had substantial control over how school construction grants were

awarded and at what rate cities and towns were reimbursed, used threats to withhold state financing as leverage to press them to hire builders and other contractors of his choice.

Hartford officials said Diamantis inserted himself into the city's Bulkeley High School reconstruc-

Turn to Probe, Page 3



Breeze employee Kaleb Gleeson, of Suffield, has his photo taken by his manager Rosa Rivera, of Willimantic, on Thursday at Bradley International Airport.

SOMETHING IN THE WIND

Low-fare Breeze Airways to operate base at Bradley, creating 200 jobs and tripling its nonstop routes



Connecticut Airport Authority Executive Director Kevin Dillon speaks Thursday at Bradley International Airport. **JESSICA HILL PHOTOS/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

By Kenneth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant

WINDSOR LOCKS — Breeze Airways, the low-fare airline that launched less than a year ago, will create its fifth operations hub at Bradley International Airport, with the promise of adding more than 200 jobs and tripling the number of nonstop destinations it offers at Connecticut's largest airport.

"We're off to a really good start, and this announcement today is a result of that," David Neeleman, Breeze's chief executive, said Thursday during a news briefing at the airport to announce the expansion. "The jobs are obviously important, but what is really important is we're going from four destinations to 12 destinations."

Neeleman said he expects an announcement of those routes in the next few weeks. Breeze now flies nonstop from Bradley to Charleston, S.C., Columbus, Norfolk, Va. and

WHERE TO? While the airline hasn't detailed its new destinations, the first of Breeze's 80 new Airbus 220s will operate on all four existing Breeze routes at Bradley beginning in June. Each of those routes will have more frequent flights this summer, notably Bradley to Charleston, which will operate daily this summer.

Sheff terms draw ire of Dems

Pair of lawmakers say settlement comes with steep price tag

By Seamus McAvoy
Hartford Courant

Two prominent Democratic lawmakers on Tuesday voiced their concern regarding the terms set out in the state's sweeping Sheff v. O'Neill settlement agreement, which must be approved by the General Assembly to bring an end to the long-fought school desegregation case.

Sen. Doug McCrory of Hartford said the settlement "doesn't make sense" during the Department of Education's budget presentation to the appropriations committee, and questioned the role the department played in negotiations. State Rep. Jeff Currey of East Hartford warned of the expansion of unintended consequences.

"What I'm trying to communicate to you is, if you guys [the state Department of Education] have responsibility for the dollars in this budget, and the policies it's going to put in place, then I have to have a conversation with you all."

"If you guys didn't have anything to do with [the terms], then my issue is with the people who put this together. Because this doesn't make sense. This is not good for kids in Hartford, or the state of Connecticut."

"I will echo [Sen.] McCrory's sentiments with regards to Sheff," said state Rep. Jeff Currey, an East Hartford Democrat.

"Not necessarily throwing it at you, but just our frustrations with how this is going to impact towns like Hartford and East Hartford, essentially increasing that \$8 million tuition bill

Turn to Sheff, Page 3

Biden: Threat of invasion in Ukraine remains 'very high'

By Vladimir Isachenkov, Yuras Karmanau and Darlene Superville
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Fears of a new war in Europe resurfaced Thursday as President Joe Biden warned that Russia could invade Ukraine

within days, and violence spiked in a long-running standoff in eastern Ukraine that some worried could provide the spark for wider conflict.

World dignitaries raced for solutions, but suspicions between East and West only seemed to grow, as NATO allies rejected Russian

assertions it was pulling back troops from exercises that had fueled fears of an attack. Russia is believed to have built up a military force of about 150,000 strong around Ukraine's borders.

Concerns escalated in the West over what Russia is doing with those troops, which included an

estimated 60% of Russia's overall ground forces. The Kremlin insists it has no plans to invade, but it has long considered Ukraine part of its sphere of influence and NATO's eastward expansion an existential threat.

The U.S. government issued some of its sturkst, most detailed

warnings yet about what could happen next.

Speaking at the U.N. Security Council, Secretary of State Antony Blinken revealed some conclusions of U.S. intelligence in a strategy that the U.S. and Britain have hoped

Turn to Ukraine, Page 2

New Britain teachers protest over school safety

Dozens of New Britain teachers held a protest Thursday, and a contingent of the school board wants to consider buying out the rest of the superintendent's contract. **Connecticut, Page 1**

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FROM PAGE ONE

Ukraine

from Page 1

will expose and preempt any invasion planning. The U.S. has declined to reveal much of the evidence underlying its claims.

He told the diplomats that a sudden, seemingly violent event staged by Russia to justify invasion would kick it off.

"We don't know exactly" the pretext — a "so-called terrorist bombing" inside Russia, a staged drone strike, "a fake, even a real attack using chemical weapons," he said.

It would open with cyberattacks, along with missiles and bombs across Ukraine, he said. Painting the U.S. picture further, Blinken described the entry of Russian troops, advancing on Kyiv, a city of nearly 3 million, and other key targets.

U.S. intelligence indicated Russia also would target "specific groups" of Ukrainians, Blinken said, again without giving details.

In an implicit nod to Secretary of State Colin Powell's appearance before the Security Council in 2003, when he cited unsubstantiated and false U.S. intelligence to justify the U.S. invasion of Iraq, Blinken added: "Let me be clear. I am here today not to start a war, but to prevent one."

Biden's own comments on the Russian threat were unusually dire.

Speaking at the White House, he said Washington saw no signs of a promised Russian withdrawal, and said the invasion threat remains "very high" because Russia has moved more troops toward the border with Ukraine instead of pulling them back.

"Every indication we have is they're prepared to go into Ukraine, attack Ukraine," Biden told reporters.

He said the U.S. has "reason to believe" Russia is "engaged in a false flag



Ukrainian Americans and supporters demonstrate Thursday outside the United Nations in New York. SPENCER PLATT/GETTY

operation to have an excuse to go in," but did not provide details.

Biden also said he had no plans to speak soon with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Renewed fear of an invasion put global financial markets on edge. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 622 points, or 1.8%. About 85% of the stocks in the benchmark S&P 500 were in the red.

The sustained Russian pressure on Ukraine has further hobbled its shaky economy and left an entire nation under constant strain.

Eastern Ukraine already has been the site of fighting since 2014 that has killed 14,000, and tensions soared again Thursday.

Separatist authorities in the Luhansk region reported an increase in Ukrainian government shelling along the tense line of contact. Separatist official Rodion Miroshnik said rebel forces returned fire.

Ukraine disputed the claim, saying separatists had shelled its forces but they didn't fire back. The Ukrainian military command said shells hit a kindergarten in Stanyslava Luhanska, wounding two

teachers, and cut power to half the town.

The head of the monitoring mission for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Yasar Halit Cevik, said it reported 500 explosions along the contact line from Wednesday evening to Thursday. Cevik told the Security Council the tensions then appeared to ease, with about 30 blasts reported.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy tweeted that the kindergarten shelling "by pro-Russian forces is a big provocation."

Kremlin spokesman

Dmitry Peskov countered: "We have repeatedly warned that the excessive concentration of Ukrainian armed forces in the immediate vicinity of the line of demarcation, coupled with possible provocations, could pose a terrible danger."

Russia held out a new offer of diplomacy Thursday, handing the U.S. a response to offers to engage in talks on limiting missile deployments in Europe, restrictions on military drills and other confidence-building measures.

The response, released by the Foreign Ministry, reaffirmed that Moscow could take unspecified "military-technical measures" if the U.S. and its allies continue to stonewall its concerns.

Meanwhile, Russia ordered the deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Bart Gorman, to leave the country, in what the State Department called an "unprovoked" move.

Russia said it was in response to the expulsion of a Russian diplomat. It appeared more linked to an ongoing U.S.-Russia battle over diplomatic staffing in Washington and Moscow than to Ukraine.

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BREAKING NEWS

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LOTTERY

Thursday, Feb. 17

PLAY3 DAY

PLAY4 DAY

6 0 4 WB: 0 6 8 2 9 WB: 3
The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

WEDNESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT

3 7 0 WB: 0

PLAY4 NIGHT

2 6 4 3 WB: 0

CASH 5

11 12 13 19 30

LUCKY FOR LIFE

1 2 7 32 40 LB: 16

POWERBALL

22 30 40 42 48 PB: 16 PP: 2

Tonight's est. Lotto jackpot: \$1M

Tonight's est. Mega Millions jackpot: \$64M

Saturday's est. Powerball jackpot: \$31M

Official Approved Notice from U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Connecticut

Sexual Abuse and General Claims in The Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich, Connecticut Bankruptcy

The Norwich Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation, a/k/a the Roman Catholic Diocese of Norwich ("Diocese" or "Debtors") has filed bankruptcy in order to restructure its nonprofit organization. Please read this notice carefully as it may impact your rights against the Diocese and provides information about the case, *In re The Norwich Roman Catholic Diocesan Corporation* (Bankr. D. Conn.). This notice is a short summary.

Who Should File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

Anyone who was sexually abused, on or before July 15, 2021, and believes the Diocese may be responsible for the sexual abuse must file a claim. This includes sexual abuse in connection with any entity or activity associated with the Diocese. Sexual Abuse Claims include but are not limited to: sexual misconduct, touching, inappropriate contact, or sexual comments about a person or other behaviors that led to abuse, and regardless of whether you thought the behavior was sexual abuse or not.

When Should I File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

Regardless of how old you are today or when the sexual abuse occurred, you need to file your claim so that it is received by 5 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) on March 15, 2022.

If you do not file a timely Sexual Abuse Claim, you may lose rights against the Diocese and against Diocese Related Entities, including any right to compensation.

Your information will be kept private. For a list of names of clergy that have been identified in connection with sexual abuse claims, go to <https://www.norwichdiocese.org/Find/Accused-Clergy>. For more information on the bankruptcy case, go to <https://dm.epiq11.com/case/rcdn> or call 1-855-654-0902.

The Sexual Abuse Bar Date of March 15, 2022 is not subject to further extension, even if there is a change in the applicable statute of limitations. You should consider submitting a proof of claim even if you believe your claim may be subject to an affirmative defense such as a statute of limitations.

When Should I File a General Bar Date Claim?

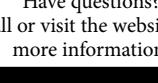
If you have a non-sexual abuse claim, you will need to file so that it is received by 5 p.m. (prevailing Eastern Time) on March 15, 2022. More information is available at <https://dm.epiq11.com/case/rcdn>.

ACT NOW Before Time Runs Out:

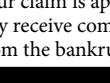
You can download and file a claim at the website or call the toll-free number listed below for help on how to file a claim by mail.



File a Proof of Claim.



Have questions? Call or visit the website for more information.



If your claim is approved, you may receive compensation from the bankruptcy.

<https://dm.epiq11.com/case/rcdn>

1-855-654-0902

RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Healthy Volunteers Needed for Brain Wave (EEG) Study

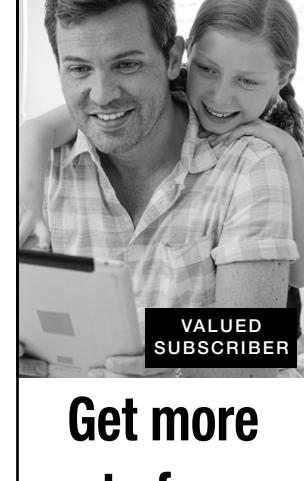
The Anxiety Disorders Center at the Institute of Living/Hartford Hospital is conducting a study investigating brain and stress responses in healthy volunteers with no current or past psychiatric illness.

Participants are compensated \$50 for their time. Studies are open to adults aged 18 to 65 years old that meet study criteria.

Studies take place on site at the Institute of Living in Hartford, CT during normal business hours (Monday-Friday, 9-5).

Hartford HealthCare
Institute of Living

For more information, please call 860-545-7391 or e-mail ADC.research@hhchealth.org



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FROM PAGE ONE

Sheff

from Page 1

The two lawmakers, who serve on the legislature's Education Committee and represent districts immediately impacted by the Sheff settlement, are among the first to voice their frustrations publicly since the settlement received preliminary court approval in late January.

The settlement enjoys support among influential figures outside the legislature, including Gov. Ned Lamont, Education Commissioner Charlene Russell-Tucker and Attorney General William Tong.

"This is an opportunity for Connecticut to get it right, for Hartford to get it right, and to set an example around the rest of the state and the rest of the country," Lamont said when the settlement was announced.

Under the terms of the agreement, the state promises to meet 100% of the demand among Hartford students who want to attend schools other than the district's racially segregated neighborhood schools by 2028-29.

The state plans to create new magnet school seats and increase the financial incentives for the suburban districts that participate in the voluntary Open Choice program, among other measures.

The state expects annual commitments to magnet schools to reach \$32 million by the 2032 fiscal year, and plans to spend \$48.7 million to renovate existing magnet schools to increase capacity. The settlement adds about \$13.7 million in state spending for the 2023 fiscal year.

McCrory, a longtime Hartford-area educator who chairs the Education Committee, told the Courant that he broadly supports the ability for Choice programs to integrate quality education. But he has concerns over the lack of input from Hartford officials during negotiations and uncertainty over academic and emotional outcomes for Choice students.

"This settlement solves a legal battle," McCrory said. "In my opinion, and in the opinion of the people who have been in education and have been around Hartford for a number of years, it does not address educational issues."

"If this was about truly, truly addressing 1954, *Brown vs. Board of Education*, then we have failed in the state of Connecticut," McCrory said.

In an interview, Currey said he doesn't outright oppose the settlement terms, but wants to see it paired with reform to the state's "broken" Education Cost Sharing formula, the mechanism that doles out \$2 billion to towns and cities each year.

Currey last year co-sponsored a reform bill, Senate Bill 948, that would have included the removal of the tuition costs paid by districts to the regional education service centers that operate Open Choice programs.

That cost is around \$8 million in East Hartford, and is expected to increase under the latest Sheff settlement (East Hartford's school board in January approved a \$96 million budget proposal for 2022-23).

"I... always like to ensure that we're providing that high quality, integrated education for students, [but] I'm not sure it makes sense for a district like East Hartford to have a price tag of around \$8 million, between tuition and special education costs, when we ourselves are an under-resourced district," said Currey, former chair of the town's school board.

East Hartford is also a minimal participant in Open Choice. Zero Hartford students attended East Hartford schools this year, while 15 East Hartford students attended Hartford schools, according to CREC, the body that oversees the program in the region.

"Listen, we are providing a high quality learning experience for every child, every day in East Hartford regardless of whether or not we're paying this money... but \$8 million is a lot of money that could be put into additional resources for our students," Currey said.



A cake celebrates the announcement on Thursday that low-fare carrier Breeze Airways will expand at Bradley International Airport, creating more than 200 jobs in the state. **JESSICA HILL PHOTOS/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

Breeze

from Page 1

Pittsburgh.

The airline's expansion comes with a \$1.3 million economic development incentive from the state. The incentive would be paid to Breeze if it creates and retains 212 full-time jobs.

David Lehman, the state's economic development commissioner, said the incentive given to Breeze is consistent with others approved by the Lamont administration. The incentive is essentially a rebate to Breeze of a percentage of income taxes generated by the new jobs, Lehman said.

The incentive kicks in only after the new jobs are created and meet retention requirements. The rebate would be stretched over a roughly 10-year period, Lehman said.

"Bradley, we were in competition with other states for this hub of employees and what was being done with the planes," Lehman said. "We put forth what was our consistent and best offer."

Lehman said the operations hub involves the basing of planes at Bradley, probably four to five, beginning this summer. With the hub, comes the hiring of pilots, flight attendants, technicians and maintenance workers.

Since launching its first flight from Bradley on May 27, Breeze has flown about 60,000 passengers in and



Gov. Ned Lamont, left, talks with Breeze Airways founder and CEO David Neeleman after a news conference at Bradley International Airport on Thursday in Windsor Locks.

out of Bradley, according to the airline.

Neeleman, the founder of four start-up airlines, including JetBlue, said there is evidence of traveler satisfaction: 30% of booked flights are from repeat passengers.

The first of Breeze's 80 new Airbus 220s will operate on all four existing Breeze routes at Bradley beginning in June. Each of those routes will have

more frequent flights this summer, notably Bradley to Charleston, which will operate daily this summer.

Kevin Dillon, executive director of the Connecticut Airport Authority, which oversees operations at Bradley, said passenger traffic is still down about 10% compared with before the pandemic.

Dillon said he believes full recovery is possible by the end of this year.

"If we continue to put capacity like this in," Dillon said, referring to the Breeze route expansion, "it's going to give us a big boost."

Gov. Ned Lamont said increasing nonstop flights out of Connecticut will make the state more economically competitive, with both business and leisure travelers able to get where they need to go more easily.

"We've got to make

sure Connecticut has easy access to the rest of the country, and that's what Bradley does and that's what Breeze Airways does," Lamont said at the news briefing.

Lamont also indicated that Breeze "is maybe looking at other regional airports in the Connecticut region as well."

Thursday's announcement comes a day after low-cost carrier Avelo Airlines said it would add four destinations from Tweed-New Haven Airport to the six they now fly out of that airport to Florida.

Dillon said Thursday he believes there is a lot of strength in the Connecticut market and enough room for commercial expansion at Tweed and even at Sikorsky Airport in Stratford. The airport authority has offered to buy Sikorsky and bring the airport under the authority's control.

"As long as it is coordinated," Dillon said. "You don't want this unconstrained competition where we are both chasing the same airlines and outbidding each other. That's the worst thing that could happen."

Dillon said co-existence with growth is certainly possible.

"I'm not saying we should be dictating destinations they are looking to get or vice versa," Dillon said.

Kenneth R. Gosselin can be reached at kgosselin@courant.com.

Probe

from Page 1

tion project to press the city to hire a consultant. The city hired Construction Advocacy Professionals, an eastern Connecticut consultant that acts as the owner's representative on construction projects.

At the time of the Diamantis intervention, Hartford had the firm ARCADIS/O&G under contract as its owner's representative. The ARCADIS joint venture had been hired in 2010 when the city school system was under state control and had been supervising a massive, city-wide school renovation program for a decade.

People familiar with the event said Diamantis was critical of work done by ARCADIS/O&G. The city also believed it would be reimbursed by the state, through Diamantis, for the cost of CAP's services.

When Hartford learned from Diamantis' old office — after his dismissal in October — that the city would not be reimbursed for work by CAP, the city terminated the contract, Mayor Luke Bronin said.

"Since the state covers the overwhelming share of school construction costs, the city's school building committee gave a great deal of deference to the state official in charge of school construction — including his direction that an addi-

tional owner's representative should be hired to oversee project costs, at the state's expense," Bronin said.

"When it was recently made clear that the state would not reimburse the costs for that firm, the contract with that firm was immediately terminated," Bronin said.

Attorney Craig Raabe, who represents CAP owner Antonietta DiBenedetto Roy, said she declined comment.

Municipal officials and contractors across the state have complained about being pressed by Diamantis over who to hire and the suspension of competitive bidding or other project issues, including in Groton, New London, Manchester, Tolland, Hartford, New Britain, Danbury and Norwalk.

State representative and former Tolland Town Council Chairman Tammy Nuccio said recently that Diamantis used his control over state financing to bully her town into skipping competitive bidding and hiring CAP and a construction manager of his choice.

"It was, 'Do what we want or you are not going to have emergency status,'" Nuccio said. "Do what we want or you are not going to have funding. Do what we want or you are going to go over and you are going to have to pay that amount." Kosta said, point blank, 'I own this project.'

In New Britain, officials said Diamantis' recommendation that the city hire a consultant led to the hiring of CAP and touched off a dispute between Mayor Erin Stewart and the school board. The Stewart administration wanted to supervise the project in-house. The board however, followed Diamantis' advice.

At the time, in 2019, New Britain had a dozen or so school projects that had been completed but needed to be closed out in order to obtain state reimbursement. Merrill Gay, vice president of the school board, said "the state" recommended hiring CAP as a consultant to complete the work. Gay said he did not recall pressuring to hire CAP.

"It didn't seem unreasonable to get a consultant on this, and that the state was saying, 'Here's somebody qualified who can get it done for you.' It didn't seem that unrealistic," he said.

"I don't know if there was any pressure from the state that the administration was getting. We didn't hear about it in the board."

Disputes also surfaced elsewhere over the intervention of Diamantis' office in the award of demolition work, which occurs early in the construction process and can involve unexpected costs arising from discovery and removal of hazardous materials.

The construction industry has complained to the

towns, the Lamont administration and to state Attorney General William Tong about decisions by Diamantis to waive competitive bidding and award contracts on school jobs in Groton and Bristol.

According to correspondence, both towns were instructed by Diamantis or his office to reject contractors selected after submitting the low price in competitive bidding in 2020 and hire contractors who had submitted higher bids, but were on a state list of companies pre-selected to do emergency work. The towns initially followed the instructions, but ultimately reversed themselves and hired the low bidders.

The state intervention and ultimate reversal is demonstrated in a long letter, obtained by the Courant, from an attorney for the city of Bristol to Diamantis on May 5, 2020.

Corporation Counsel Wyland Dale Clift asks Diamantis to clarify his instruction to scrap the low bid in favor of a higher price and give the city "assurance and confirmation" that doing so would not put it and its general contractor in "legal jeopardy."

The letter claimed, among other things, that a former Diamantis assistant "represented that you were directing all bids for abatement and demolition to be rejected. This directive came so late in the process

and was so surprising, the project personnel sought and received verbal reinforcement and validation of your directive over the next several days."

Diamantis' lawyer, Norm Patti, said disagreement over bidding for the demolition work may arise from different accounting practices for the costs of construction and hazardous material abatement.

"The lines between abatement and school construction projects were not entirely clear to many local school administrators," Patti said.

"And the local administrators ended up with the lowest bidder. We reject the suggestion that Mr. Diamantis did anything inconsistent with his duties as a state administrator."

In another letter obtained by the Courant, a construction industry lawyer, Ray Garcia, working with a trade group, asked Tong to intervene "to stop the persistent effort by the Office of Policy and Management and municipalities to circumvent statutory public bidding requirements for Connecticut financed school construction projects."

Tong said Thursday he arranged a series of meetings with Garcia and a variety of state officials and believes the specific concerns of bid procedures in Groton and Bristol were resolved.

WORLD & NATION

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Judge: Trumps must testify in probe

New York AG can question trio under oath in civil case

By Michael R. Sisak
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former President Donald Trump must answer questions under oath in New York state's civil investigation into his business practices, a judge ruled Thursday.

Judge Arthur Engoron ordered Trump and his two eldest children, Ivanka Trump and Donald Trump Jr., to comply with subpoenas issued in December by New York Attorney General Letitia James.

Trump and his two children must sit for a deposition within 21 days, Engoron said.

Engoron issued the ruling after a two-hour hearing with lawyers for the Trumps and James' office.

"In the final analysis, a State Attorney General commences investigating a business entity, uncovers copious evidence of possible financial fraud, and wants to question, under oath, several of the entities' principals, including its namesake. She has the clear right to do so," Engoron wrote in his decision.

The ruling is almost certain to be appealed, but if upheld it could force the former president into a tough decision about whether to answer questions, or stay silent, citing his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

Spokespeople for Trump did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the ruling.

James, a Democrat, said her investigation has uncov-



The former president's children Ivanka Trump and Donald Trump Jr. were told to comply with subpoenas. EVAN VUCCI/AP 2020

ered evidence Trump's company used "fraudulent or misleading" valuations of assets like golf courses and skyscrapers to get loans and tax benefits.

Trump's lawyers told Engoron during the hearing that having him sit for a civil deposition now, while his company is also the subject of a parallel criminal investigation, is an improper attempt to get around a state law barring prosecutors from calling someone to testify before a criminal grand jury without giving them immunity.

"If she wants sworn testimony from my client, he's entitled to immunity. He gets immunity for what he

says, or he says nothing," Trump's criminal defense lawyer, Ronald Fischetti, said in the hearing, which was conducted by video conference.

If Trump were to testify in the civil probe, anything he says could be used against him in the criminal investigation being overseen by the Manhattan district attorney's office.

Trump could invoke his Fifth Amendment right to remain silent in a deposition — something he's criticized others for doing in the past. But Fischetti said if Trump did so, it could still hurt a potential criminal defense.

"If he goes in and follows my advice, which will be you

cannot answer these questions without ... immunity because that's what the law provides, and take the Fifth Amendment, that'll be on every front page in the newspaper in the world. And how can I possibly pick a jury in that case?" Fischetti said.

A lawyer for the attorney general's office, Kevin Wallace, told the judge that it wasn't unusual to have civil and criminal investigations proceeding at the same time.

"Mr. Trump is a high-profile individual, yes. That's unique," Wallace said. "It's unique that so many people are paying attention to a rather dry hearing about subpoena enforcement. But

the legal issues that we're dealing with here are pretty standard."

Another Trump son, Eric Trump, and the Trump Organization's finance chief, Allen Weisselberg, have previously sat for depositions in the civil investigation — and invoked their Fifth Amendment rights

hundreds of times when they were questioned by investigators in 2020.

Another lawyer for Donald Trump, Alina Habba, accused James of trying to use the civil investigation to gather evidence for the criminal probe.

She said the civil investigation should be stayed until the criminal matter is

over, claiming James' office is putting the Trumps "in a position where they either disclose evidence in a civil investigation or they have to invoke the constitutional right not to testify, thereby triggering an adverse inference in the civil action."

Alan Futerfas, a lawyer for Ivanka Trump and Donald Trump Jr., both of whom have been executives in their family's Trump Organization, said during the court hearing that he had no reason to believe either are targets of the district attorney's criminal investigation.

In a statement Tuesday, Trump railed against what he called a "sham investigation of a great company that has done a spectacular job for New York and beyond" and a racially motivated "continuation of a Witch Hunt the likes of which has never been seen in this Country before."

In a court filing this week, James included a letter from Trump's longtime accounting firm advising him to no longer rely on years of financial statements it prepared based on his company's valuations, given the questions about their accuracy.

James tweeted after the ruling Thursday: "No one will be permitted to stand in the way of the pursuit of justice, no matter how powerful they are."

Last summer, spurred by evidence uncovered in James' civil investigation, the Manhattan district attorney's office charged Weisselberg and the Trump Organization with tax fraud, alleging he collected more than \$1.7 million in off-the-books compensation.

Weisselberg and the company have pleaded not guilty.

Truckers holding ground in Ottawa despite threats

Police chief: 'Plans' in place if protesters keep flouting order

By Rob Gillies, Wilson Ring and Robert Bumsted
Associated Press

OTTAWA, Ontario — Hundreds of truckers clogging the streets of Canada's capital stood their ground and defiantly blasted their horns Thursday as police poured in, threatening to break up the nearly three-week protest against the country's COVID-19 restrictions.

Bulldozes of police arrived near Ottawa's Parliament Hill, and workers put up extra fences around government buildings. Police also essentially began sealing off much of downtown to prevent outsiders from coming to the aid of the protesters.

"The action is imminent," said interim Ottawa police Chief Steve Bell. "We absolutely are committed to end this unlawful demonstration."

Police continued negotiating with the protesters and trying to persuade them to go home, Bell said. "We want this demonstration to end peacefully," he said, but

added: "If they do not peacefully leave, we have plans."

Many of the truckers in the self-styled Freedom Convoy appeared unmoved by days of warnings from police and the government that they were risking arrest and could see their rigs seized and bank accounts frozen.

"I'm prepared to sit ... and watch them hit me with pepper spray," said one of their leaders, Pat King. As for the trucks parked bumper-to-bumper, he said: "There's no tow trucks in Canada that will touch them."

Amid the rising tensions, truckers outside Parliament blared their horns in defiance of a court injunction against honking, issued for the benefit of neighborhood residents.

Ottawa represented the movement's last stronghold after weeks of demonstrations and blockades that shut down border crossings into the U.S., inflicted economic damage on both countries and created a political crisis for Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

"It's high time that these illegal and dangerous activities stop," Trudeau declared in Parliament, not far from where the more than 300 trucks were parked.

"They are a threat to our

economy and our relationship with trading partners," he said. "They are a threat to public safety."

Ottawa police began locking down a wide swath of the downtown area, allowing in only those who live or work there after they pass through one of more than 100 checkpoints, the interim chief said.

Police were especially worried about the children among the protesters. Bell said police were working with child-welfare agencies to determine how to safely remove the youngsters before authorities move in.

Earlier this week, the prime minister invoked Canada's Emergencies Act, empowering law enforcement authorities to declare the blockades illegal, tow away trucks, arrest the drivers, suspend their licenses and take other measures.

On Thursday, Trudeau and some of his top ministers took turns warning the protesters to leave, in an apparent move by the government to avert a clash, or at least show it had gone the extra mile to avoid one.

Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland said the government began freezing truckers' accounts as threatened.

"It is happening. I do have



Protesters and their supporters on Thursday in Ottawa, Ontario. A demonstration in Canada's capital against COVID-19 restrictions is in its third week. COLE BURSTON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

the numbers in front of me," she said.

Ottawa police likewise handed out leaflets for the second straight day demanding the truckers end the siege, and also placed notices on vehicles informing owners how and where to pick up their trucks if they are towed.

The occupation has infuriated many Ottawa residents.

"We've seen people intimidated, harassed and threatened. We've seen apartment buildings that have been chained up. We have seen

fires set in the corridors. Residents are terrorized," said Canadian Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino.

The protests by demonstrators in trucks, tractors and motor homes initially focused on Canada's vaccine requirement for truckers entering the country but soon morphed into a broader attack on COVID-19 precautions and Trudeau's government.

Fox News personalities and U.S. conservatives such as former President Donald Trump have egged on the protests. Trudeau

complained on Thursday that "roughly half of the funding to the barricaders here is coming from the United States."

Trucks were parked shoulder-to-shoulder downtown, some with tires removed to hamper towing.

The presence of children also complicated the planning. As a showdown seemed to draw near, Canadian Emergency Preparedness Minister Bill Blair said:

"To those who have children with them, this is no place for children. Take them home immediately."

Harris stepping in spotlight to rally allies on Ukraine crisis

By Aamer Madhani
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vice President Kamala Harris will face her highest-stakes foreign policy assignment yet this weekend in Germany, where she will try to keep European allies unified amid growing concern over the threat of a Russian invasion of Ukraine.

She will attend the annual Munich Security Conference as President Joe Biden and other Western lead-

ers warn that the threat of an invasion remains high despite Russian President Vladimir Putin's statements that he is committed to further talks.

Harris is scheduled to meet Friday with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and hold a multilateral meeting with the leaders of the Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia on the margins of the Munich conference. She's scheduled to deliver an address Saturday on the administra-

tion's efforts to stop Russian aggression. After the speech, she's expected to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

The public-facing efforts by the Biden administration have largely been entrusted to the president's national security adviser Jake Sullivan and Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who will also be in Munich.

But Harris has been a constant presence by Biden's side throughout the crisis,

according to a senior administration official.

Munich offers an opportunity for Harris to demonstrate her role in the apparatus of America's foreign policy after what has been a sometimes choppy first year of her vice presidency. Her portfolio includes addressing a litany of policy problems that have no clear solution or immediate payoff. Among the tough tasks on her plate are driving the administration's push for a voting rights bill and

addressing the root causes of migration to the U.S. southern border.

"This is really an important moment for Harris and the administration," said Heather Conley, president of the non-partisan German Marshall Fund of the United States.

The conference will mark the vice president's fifth foreign trip. On past trips she visited Guatemala and Mexico; Singapore and Vietnam; France; and most recently Honduras.



Kamala Harris will tackle the Ukraine crisis at meetings in Germany. SUSAN WALSH/AP

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Sexual assault reports increase sharply at US military academies

From news services

WASHINGTON — Reported sexual assaults at the U.S. military academies increased sharply during the 2020-21 school year, as students returned to in-person classes during the coronavirus pandemic.

The increase continues what officials believe is an upward trend at the academies, despite an influx of new sexual assault prevention and treatment programs.

Comparing the totals over the past three years, however, is tricky. The number of reports dropped at all the academies during the pandemic-shortened 2019-20 school year, when in-person classes were canceled and students were sent home in the spring to finish the semester online.

Although there were fewer reports that year than the previous year, one senior defense official said that based on trends the total likely would have shown an increase if students had not left early.

In addition, the number of reported assaults in 2020-21 was also higher than the pre-pandemic school year of 2018-19.

According to the Pentagon report released Thursday, the overall jump in cases was driven by increases at the Air Force Academy and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. There were 131 assaults reported by cadets or midshipmen in 2020-21, compared with 88 the previous year and 122 a year earlier. Of the 131, cadets at the Air Force Academy in Colorado reported 52 assaults, compared with 46 at West Point in New York and 33 at the U.S. Naval Academy in Maryland.

Victims at the academies are encouraged to report assaults, and at times

students will come forward to talk about unwanted sexual contact that happened in the years before they started school there. If those episodes of unwanted sexual contact are included, as well as those involving students but reported by individuals outside the schools, the total sexual assault reports for 2020-21 is 161. That also is an increase over the pre-pandemic year, when there were 148.

The latest increase comes as Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and other leaders struggle to curb sexual assaults across the military, amid escalating criticism from Capitol Hill.

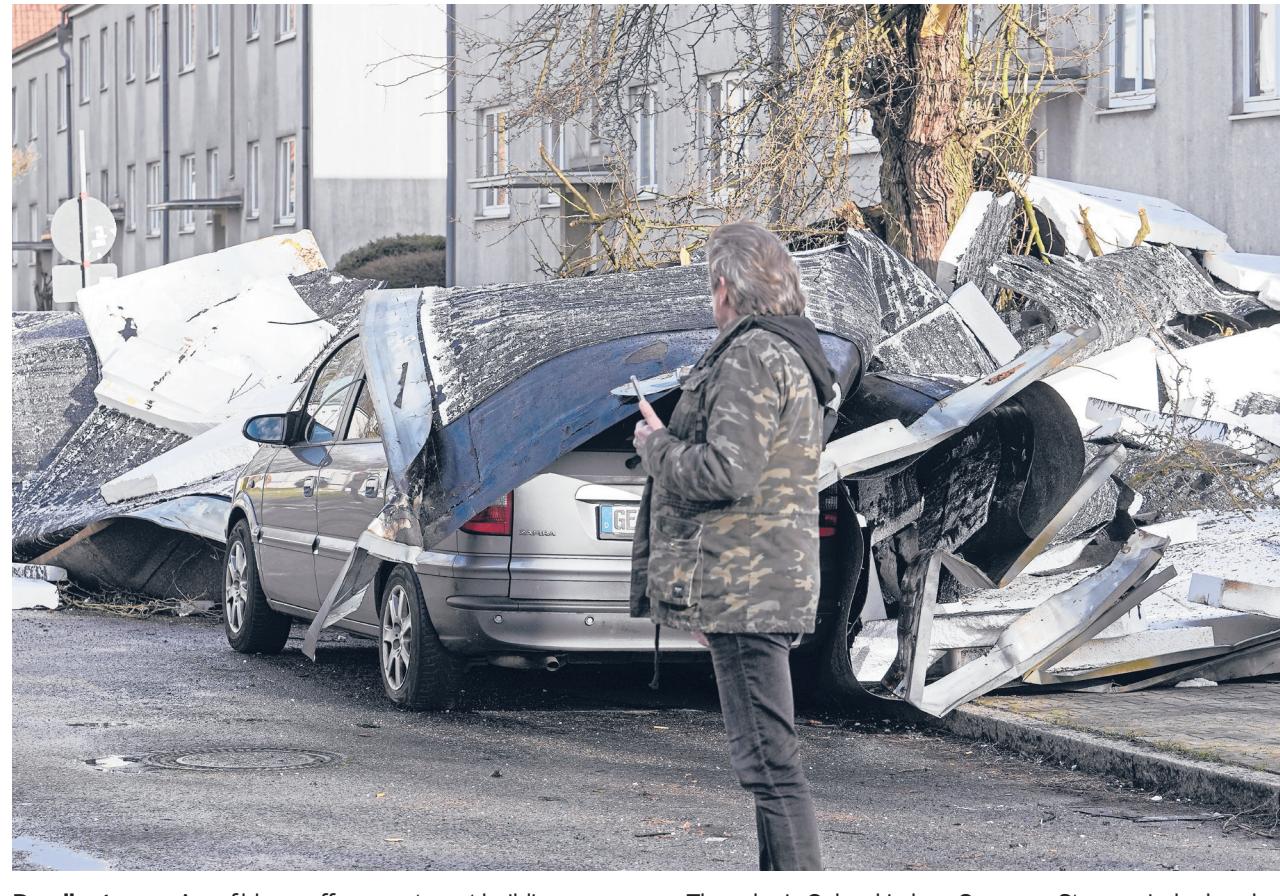
Lawmakers are demanding better prevention efforts and more aggressive prosecutions.

Convention outbreak: When a person tested positive for omicron after attending an anime convention in New York City late last year, health officials raced to determine if the indoor gathering was a superspread event.

It wasn't, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concluded Thursday. Widespread masking, vaccinations and good air flow at the Javits Center prevented the highly contagious omicron variant from spreading widely.

Investigators found 119 infections from about 53,000 people who attended the event over three days in November. A Minnesota man at the Anime NYC convention became one of the first Americans diagnosed with omicron. While omicron cases were found in the man's small social circle, other cases turned out to be from the older delta variant, the CDC said.

Vatican trial: The Vatican's big fraud and extortion trial



Deadly storms: A roof blown off an apartment building covers a car Thursday in Gelsenkirchen, Germany. Strong winds ahead of a series of storms across northern Europe left at least five people dead in Germany and Poland and hampered travel. Britain's weather agency issued its highest alert level for Friday with winds up to 80 mph expected inland. MARTIN MEISSNER/AP

resumes Friday after exposing some realities of how the Holy See operates.

According to written testimony obtained Thursday, one of Pope Francis' top advisers brought in members of the Italian secret service to sweep his office for bugs and commissioned intelligence reports from them, completely bypassing the Vatican's own police force in the process.

The reported actions of Archbishop Edgar Peña Parra, the No. 2 in the Vatican secretariat of state, raise some fundamental questions about the security and sovereignty of the Vatican City State, since he purportedly invited foreign intelligence operatives into the Holy See's inner sanctum, and then outsourced internal Vatican police spy work to them.

Peña Parra hasn't been charged with any crime, though his subordinates have. They are among 10 people, including a once-powerful cardinal, on

trial in the Vatican criminal tribunal in connection with the Vatican's bungled nearly \$400 million investment in a London property.

Israel rips UN panel: Israel on Thursday formally announced it would not cooperate with a special commission formed by the United Nations' top human rights body to investigate alleged abuses against Palestinians, saying the probe and its chairwoman were unfairly biased against Israel.

The decision, delivered in a scathing letter to the commission's head, Navi Pillay, further strained what already is a tense relationship between Israel and the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council in Geneva.

The council established the three-person investigative commission last May, days after an 11-day war between Israel and Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip. Over 260 Palestinians, including scores of women

and children, were killed in the fighting. Fourteen people died in Israel.

French troops exit Mali: Politicians and experts worry the withdrawal of French troops from Mali will result in a security vacuum that will embolden jihadi groups to increase their power.

"Today it's the terrorist groups who are happy with this announcement," Amadou Koita, former Cabinet minister in the government of former President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita said Thursday after French President Emmanuel Macron announced that France will withdraw its military from the West African country within six months.

Malian army spokesman Col. Major Souleymane Dembélé said that despite the presence of French and European forces in Mali, it continues to be plagued by jihadists who have encroached in many areas.

Oregon election: The Oregon Supreme Court ruled Thursday that former New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof doesn't meet the state's three-year residency requirement to run for governor, leaving him with a sizable war chest and no plans for the future.

The justices upheld a decision in January by Oregon election officials that the former journalist did not meet the qualifications, citing that Kristof voted in New York in 2020.

Kristof, who moved to a farm near Yamhill, Oregon, with his parents when he was 12 and had kept and expanded the property as an adult, announced his candidacy last October. That same month, The New York Times announced he resigned after a decades-long career.

A winner of two Pulitzer Prizes, Kristof has raised \$2.75 million and can hold onto it, to either give to other candidates or use himself in a future run for office.

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Nashville preps for shift to the right

New congressional maps place GOP firmly in control

By Jonathan Mattise
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Black college students once marched downtown from the north Nashville neighborhood where Aaron Marble preaches, sitting at whites-only lunch counters to fight for civil rights. Soon, his historically Black community will fold into mostly rural, white 14-county territory, and he'll likely have a Republican congressman.

Reality set in for Marble when longtime Rep. Jim Cooper, a white moderate Democrat, said he wouldn't run again because even he couldn't win any of the three new Nashville seats drawn by Republicans during the once-a-decade redistricting process.

The new maps will amount to a stark shift for Nashville, which encompasses Davidson County. As one of three Tennessee counties that backed President Joe Biden in 2020, it's home to the type of coalition of younger progressives, white moderates and African Americans that Democrats have increasingly relied on.

Now, voters there face the potential of representation mostly at odds with their political views. There's particular concern that the new lawmakers will be hostile to protecting voting rights, an issue especially resonant in the city where John Lewis, Diane Nash and other civil rights leaders got their start.

"Black Nashvillians have been feeling the weight of living in a red state for quite some time. But I think this redistricting will have deep and lasting adverse impacts on some of Tennessee's most vulnerable populations," said Marble, Jefferson Street Missionary Baptist Church's



Aaron Marble, a pastor, says congressional redistricting in Nashville, will have "deep and lasting adverse impacts." JOHN AMIS/AP

senior pastor.

The once sleepy Southern city has fueled much of Tennessee's population growth through thriving health care and tech industries. The cost of living has skyrocketed.

Navigating that will be a challenge for lawmakers who will also represent rural and suburban communities, where the prevailing politics range from moderate to conservative Republican.

"I think that Nashvillians are going to get more whiplash, culture shock, regret than the residents of almost any city in America, because to go from 100 years of Democratic representation to three varieties of Trump representation is going to be quite a shock," Cooper said.

What Tennessee Republicans did in Nashville is a standard gerrymandering technique known as cracking, which dilutes a party's power by spreading its voters among multiple districts. The prototype for

this approach last decade was Austin, which Texas Republicans split into six congressional districts.

This cycle, Republicans' attempts to crack Democratic cities like Charlotte and Cincinnati have run afoul of anti-gerrymandering laws in North Carolina and Ohio, leading the states' supreme courts to reject their maps. Tennessee, however, lacks similar provisions.

The pattern works in Democrats' favor sometimes, too. Portland, Oregon, is divided four ways in the new, Democratic-drawn map to create as many liberal-leaning districts as possible.

This time, Republicans control the line-drawing process in states representing 187 House seats compared with 75 for Democrats. Others use independent commissions, have split government control or have only one congressional seat.

Tennessee Democrats plan to challenge the maps but face significant hurdles. The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that federal courts won't referee partisan gerrymandering.

Additionally, Nashville likely doesn't have enough minority voters to make up a district's majority, a key argument under federal voting rights protections. A recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Alabama further dampens Nashville's prospects in court, with justices deciding that elections were too imminent to consider changes to the state's congressional map.

So far for Nashville, the two GOP congressmen and the open-seat Republican candidates haven't struck more moderate tones.

Republican Rep. Mark Green, from the Clarksdale area about 50 miles from Nashville, will draw Marble's majority-Black north Nashville neighborhood, plus downtown and

elsewhere. In an interview, Green said Democratic policies "are not serving anyone in the state of Tennessee" and "conservative principles are just better."

He sought to counter criticisms that Republicans' representation within meandering new districts could short Nashville's needs.

"What I've got to do is get in and listen to people and understand the challenges, and then I'll put my brain to it," Green said. "I mean, I'm a smart guy. If I look at the problem and see the problem, I'll help find a solution to it."

Republican Rep. John Rose will inherit part of Nashville as well. He's from Cookeville, some 80 miles east.

The crowded-and-growing field for the recast version of Cooper's seat includes Morgan Ortagus, a Nashville resident and former State Department spokesperson under Pres-

ident Donald Trump, who has endorsed her. Her first video attacks the media, "Sleepy Joe" Biden and "radical socialists."

"There may be some people that have differing opinions. That's OK," Ortagus said. "I want to meet them ... I really think you can have common ground with people."

Green's and Rose's records, and the rhetoric of those seeking Cooper's seat, make any relationship with Nashville complicated.

Both support Trump's tough tone on immigration, including building out the U.S.-Mexico border wall. They'll represent a growing Nashville immigrant community — it has the nation's largest Kurdish population — and will be asked to help people navigate immigration services.

Lisa Sherman Luna, of the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition Votes group, said immigrant advocates are accustomed to building political influence in tough territory.

"I think that the price is going to be much higher for cheap nativist tactics for some of these folks," she said. "They could rise to the occasion, truly representing a district that is going to be increasingly diverse."

Green and Rose voted against Biden's infrastructure law. Green contended that vote doesn't mean he's opposed to spending on infrastructure, which Nashville officials say is needed.

"We're fiscally challenged with our debt right now. It's part of the problem," Green said. "We just have to be smart about it."

Cooper predicted that Republicans aren't prepared for what awaits them representing Nashville.

"They'll pay lip service. They'll engage in tokenism. They'll try to put oil on the waters," Cooper said. "But they won't be able to hide their voting records, current, past or future. And those will not go down well."

Keeping the vulnerable protected

As pandemic restrictions ease across US, there are still some who remain at risk

By David Leonhardt
The New York Times

With the omicron wave receding, many places are starting to remove at least some of their remaining pandemic restrictions.

This shift could reduce the isolation and disruption that have contributed to a long list of societal ills, like rising mental-health problems, drug overdoses, violent crime and, as Substack's Matthew Yglesias has written, "all kinds of bad behavior."

But the removal of restrictions has downsides, too. Millions of Americans remain vulnerable to COVID-19. The largest group, by far, is the unvaccinated, who have the ability to protect themselves and have chosen not to.

Another group of people, however, have done what they can to stay healthy — by getting vaccinated — and yet remain vulnerable.

They include the elderly and people with immunodeficiencies that put them at greater COVID-19 risk.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 75% of vaccinated people who have died from COVID-19 had at least four medical risk factors.

At this point in the pandemic, there is a strong argument that a targeted approach — lifting restrictions while taking specific measures to protect the vulnerable — can maximize public health.

The right approach, Jennifer Nuzzo, a public

health researcher at Johns Hopkins University, said, involves "moving away from broad, blunt tools to more precision tools."

The public conversation often misses this middle ground. It can sometimes seem to be a debate between doing everything to slow the spread of COVID-19 and doing nothing, said Katelyn Jetelina of the University of Texas, who writes a newsletter about public health. In truth, she said, "There has to be a balance."

There are, however, several steps that can help protect the vulnerable as society moves back toward normal.

Vaccines and boosters:

Although some Americans remain so opposed to a COVID-19 vaccination that there is little chance of persuading them, others may still choose to receive shots if they are readily available.

Booster shots are vital, too, to overcome waning protection. Boosters are especially important for the vulnerable — the elderly and immunocompromised.

"Vaccination is the most valuable intervention we can do," said William Hanage, an infectious-disease expert at Harvard.

High-quality masks: For the vulnerable vaccinated, the best approach is what public health researchers call "the Swiss cheese model." It's a multifaceted approach in which each strategy, including vaccines, has holes. But when the strat-



Wearing an N95 mask, like these farm workers in Medford, Ore., remains beneficial. JORDAN GALE/THE NEW YORK TIMES 2021

egies are layered on top of one another, the holes tend to disappear.

One such layer is masking with an N95 or KN95 medical mask, even if others are maskless.

"One-way masking works," as Olga Khazan of The Atlantic has written.

Joseph Allen of Harvard University has argued that somebody wearing an N95 mask and talking to an unmasked person is at less risk than somebody who's wearing a standard surgical mask and talking to another person wearing a standard mask.

"Let's dispense with the notion that masks are only protective if everyone is wearing them," Allen wrote in The Washington Post.

Preventive drug: In December, the Food and Drug Administration authorized a drug called Evusheld, made by AstraZeneca. It is designed to be an additional layer of protection on top of the vaccines, to prevent

COVID-19 in immunocompromised people.

The Biden administration has bought 1.7 million doses, which is not enough to protect every American who could benefit but is significant. A larger immediate problem is confusion around the distribution. Many people don't know Evusheld exists or how to find out if they're eligible and how to get a shot.

Rob Relyea, an engineer at Microsoft whose wife has cancer, has created an online resource, in the absence of information from official sources. The country needs a "better communication plan around Evusheld," Relyea tweeted. "Each hospital should proactively reach out to immunocompromised patients."

Rapid tests: One piece of recent good news is the increased availability of rapid COVID-19 tests, at drugstores and elsewhere.

Rapid tests are an import-

ant tool for allowing the elderly and immunocompromised to socialize confidently with friends and family.

Stefanie Friedhoff of Brown University's School of Public Health has written about a friend of hers who leaves a batch of tests in her hallway for people to take before they visit her husband, who has Parkinson's disease.

Post-infection treatments:

Rapid tests can also help vulnerable people find out when they have contracted COVID-19 — and quickly begin a treatment to reduce its severity.

"Time is critical, as close to symptom onset as possible," Dr. Paul Sax of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston notes.

Although some post-infection treatments no longer work against omicron, others, like remdesivir, seem to. The most effective treatment may be Paxlovid, a Pfizer drug designed to fight COVID.

Unfortunately, these treatments can also be difficult to locate.

Bottom line: Vulnerable people — and their families — can take some big steps to protect themselves, including high-quality masks and rapid tests.

But government agencies, hospitals and doctor's offices can also play a crucial role, helping people locate potentially lifesaving treatments.

"It's incumbent upon policymakers to give people the tools to do that," Dr. Scott Gottlieb, a former FDA commissioner, said on CBS on Sunday.

A final point is that some of these issues are not unique to COVID-19. The flu, for example, kills over 30,000 Americans a year, most of them elderly or immunocompromised. If COVID-19 can focus the country on finding better ways to protect them in the future, it would be one silver lining from a pandemic.

WORLD & NATION

80 million in US still at risk, even with omicron waning

By Carla K. Johnson
Associated Press

The omicron wave that assaulted the United States this winter also bolstered its defenses, leaving enough protection against the coronavirus that future spikes will likely require much less — if any — dramatic disruption to society.

Millions of individual Americans' immune systems now recognize the virus and are primed to fight it off if they encounter omicron, or even another variant.

About half of eligible Americans have received booster shots, there have been nearly 80 million confirmed infections overall and many more infections have never been reported. One influential model uses those factors and others to estimate that 73% of Americans are, for now, immune to omicron, the dominant variant, and that could rise to 80% by mid-March.

This will prevent or shorten new illnesses in protected people and reduce the amount of virus circulating overall, likely tamping down new waves. Hospitals will get a break from overwhelmed ICUs, experts agree.

"We have changed," said Ali Mokdad, a professor of health metrics sciences at the University of Washington in Seattle. "We have been exposed to this virus and we know how to deal with it."

The coronavirus — the current variant or future ones that are sure to pop up — remains dangerous. It is still infecting more than 130,000 Americans and killing more than 2,000 every day. Tens of millions of people remain vulnerable.

And there will be future outbreaks. The notion of a "herd immunity" that could stop the virus has slipped away under the harsh reality of new variants, waning immunity, and the rejection



Michael Burke, a university student, gets a COVID-19 booster shot from nursing student Colette Sayegh on Jan. 12 in Oakland, Pennsylvania. ANDREW RUSH/PIITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE

of vaccines by some Americans.

But the coronavirus is no longer new. Two years ago it arrived in a nation where nobody's immune system had seen it before. The entire population — 330 million people — were immunologically naive, that is, susceptible to infection.

"I am optimistic even if we have a surge in summer, cases will go up, but hospitalizations and deaths will not," Mokdad said.

Many Americans are starting to return to their pre-pandemic lifestyles. Sarah Rixen, 41, of Bismarck, North Dakota, started singing again with a chorus after a year off. Now, she feels more confident than at any time since the crisis began.

"But I am still a little leery that there could be another variant around the corner," said Rixen, adding her family and most relatives are fully vaccinated. "I am still going to wear a mask."

As mask mandates ease, workers return to offices and flights fill up, experts are trying to understand whether this return to normal can last, or if another setback is looming.

To address that, researchers are trying to answer questions about the virus, the vaccine, and how our bodies respond: How

fast is booster protection waning against omicron? How long does protection from infection last? How many mild infections were never reported? How many people got infected but had no symptoms?

To find clues, they use health data from other countries to project what could be in store.

Scientists at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health estimate that about 3 out of 4 people in the United States will have been infected by omicron by the end of the surge.

"We know it's a huge proportion of the population," said Shaun True-love, an epidemiologist and disease modeler at Johns Hopkins. "This varies a lot by location, and in some areas we expect the number infected to be closer to 1 in 2."

Still, while the population is better protected, many individuals are not. Even by the most optimistic estimates for population immunity, 80 million or so Americans are still vulnerable. That's about the same as the total number of confirmed infections in the U.S. during the pandemic.

"The 26% who could still get omicron right now have to be very careful," Mokdad said.



Residents evacuate amid the risk of more mudslides Thursday in Petropolis, Brazil. Local police said that 134 people are missing, many feared trapped in mud. SILVIA IZQUIERDO/AP

Officials fear deaths will top 110 from mudslides in Brazil

By Mauricio Savarese and Diarlei Rodrigues
Associated Press

PETROPOLIS, Brazil — The death toll from floods and landslides that swept down on the mountain city of Petropolis rose to at least 110 Thursday and local officials said it could still rise sharply, with more than 130 people still unaccounted for.

The Rio de Janeiro state government confirmed the rising loss of life hours after local police announced 134 people are missing, many feared trapped in mud beneath the German-influenced city nestled in the mountains above the city of Rio de Janeiro.

Torrents of floodwaters and mudslides dragged cars and houses through the streets of the city Tuesday during the most intense rainfall in decades.

One video showed two buses sinking into a swollen river as its passengers clambered out the windows, scrambling for safety. Some didn't make it to the banks and were washed away.

Survivors dug through the ruined landscape to find loved ones even as more landslides appeared likely

on the city's slopes.

A small slide Thursday prompted an evacuation, but it did not cause injuries, authorities said.

Rosilene Virginia said her brother barely escaped, and she considers it a miracle.

But a friend hasn't yet been found.

"It's very sad to see people asking for help and having no way of helping, no way of doing anything," Virginia said. "It's desperate, a feeling of loss so great."

As some people tried to clear away mud, others began burying lost relatives, with 17 funerals at the damaged cemetery.

Rio police said Thursday that about 200 agents were checking lists of the living, the dead and the missing by visiting checkpoints and shelters, as well as the city's morgue. They said they managed to remove three people from a list of missing after finding them alive in a local school.

"Every detail is important so we can track people," said Rio police investigator Elen Souto. "We need people to inform the full name of the missing person, their ID, physical traits and

the clothes that person was wearing."

Petropolis, named for a former Brazilian emperor, has been a refuge for people escaping the summer heat and tourists keen to explore the so-called Imperial City.

Its prosperity has also drawn residents from Rio's poorer regions and the population grew haphazardly, climbing mountainsides now covered with small residences packed tightly together, often in areas made more vulnerable by deforestation and inadequate drainage.

The state fire department said just over 10 inches of rain fell within three hours Tuesday — almost as much as during the previous 30 days combined.

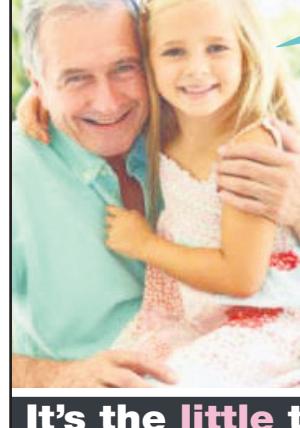
Rio de Janeiro's Gov. Claudio Castro said in a news conference that the rains were the worst Petropolis has received since 1932.

"No one could predict rain as hard as this," Castro said.

More rain was expected through the rest of the week, according to weather forecasters.

Petropolis' city hall declared three days of mourning for the tragedy.

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M. Jones

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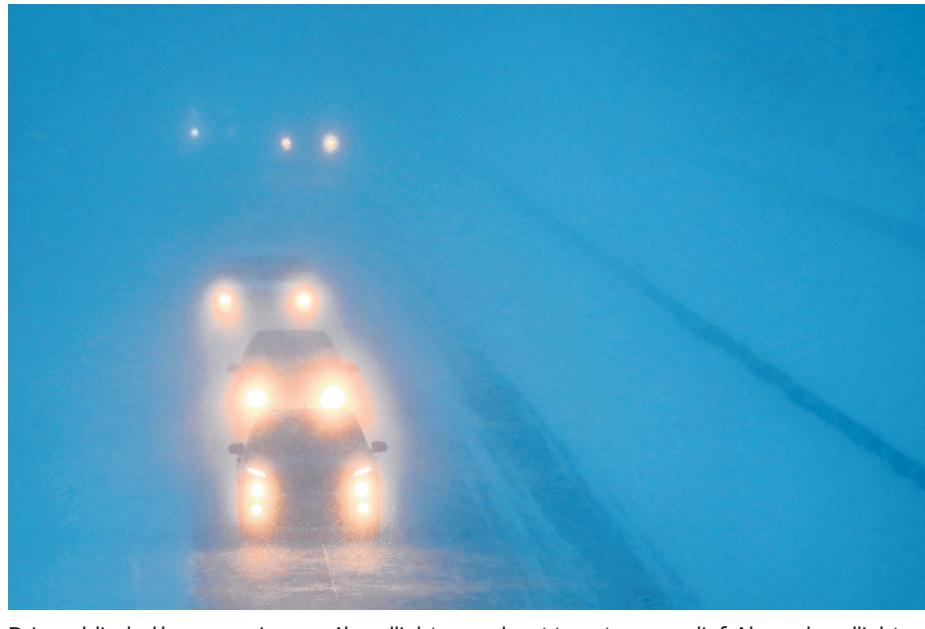
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BUSINESS



Drivers blinded by oncoming cars' headlights are about to get some relief. Above, headlights on a snowy morning in Appleton, Wisconsin. **DANNY DAMIANI/THE POST-CRESCENT 2019**

US to approve new headlights that won't blind other drivers

By Tom Krisher
Associated Press

DETROIT — U.S. highway safety regulators are about to allow new high-tech headlights that can automatically tailor beams so they focus on dark areas of the road and don't create glare for oncoming drivers.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says it issued a final rule allowing what's called "adaptive driving beam headlights" on new vehicles. It is expected to go into effect this month.

The headlights, commonly used in Europe, have LED lamps that can focus beams on darkness such as the driver's lane and areas along the roadside. They also lower the intensity of the light beams if there's oncoming traffic. Camera sensors and computers help determine where the light should go.

"This final rule will improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists by making them more visible at night, and will help prevent crashes by better illuminating animals and objects in and along the road," the agency said in a

news release on Tuesday.

The new rule, which was supported by the auto industry, comes as the safety agency grapples with a dramatic rise in traffic deaths nationwide.

The number of U.S. traffic deaths surged in the first nine months of 2021 to 31,720, the government reported Tuesday, keeping up a record pace of increased dangerous driving during the coronavirus pandemic.

The estimated figure of people dying in motor vehicle crashes from January to September 2021 was 12% higher than the same period in 2020. That represents the highest percentage increase over a nine-month period since the Transportation Department began recording fatal crash data in 1975.

The tally of 31,720 deaths was the highest nine-month figure since 2006.

Sam Abuelsamid, principal mobility analyst for Guidehouse Research, said the new lights will show up in higher-cost luxury vehicles at first, but will spread to more mainstream vehicles as the price of the technology falls.

Currently Audi charges

\$3,000 for the top version of the lights in the U.S. on its e-tron Sportback electric vehicle. The adaptive beam lights are offered on most Audi models in the U.S., but until now, could not be used. An Audi spokesman says the company is evaluating whether the lights meet NHTSA standards and whether they can be activated in the future.

The technology uses an array of light emitting diodes that can change where light beams are sent, rather than the current technology of high beams hitting everywhere. "You have the ability to basically create a light pattern on the fly that is optimized for real-time conditions," Abuelsamid said. "You can cast the light where it's most useful."

The new lights also will help partially automated driver assist systems keep cars in their lanes and avoid objects in front of the vehicles at night, Abuelsamid said.

The new lighting regulation also comes more than 1½ years ahead of a requirement in the bipartisan infrastructure law passed by Congress last year, NHTSA said.

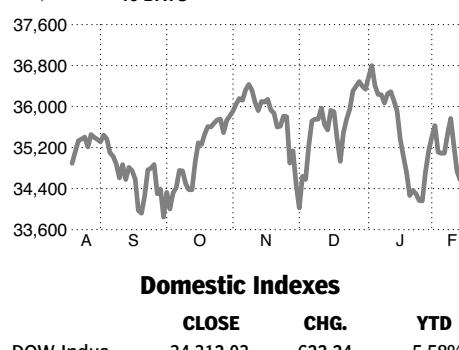
MARKET RUNDOWN

Friday, February 18, 2022

DOW
34,312.03 -622.24

10-YR T-BOND
1.97% -.07

GOLD
\$1,900.70 +30.50



Commodities			
FUELS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	91.76	93.66	+22.01%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.49	4.72	+20.27%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.65	2.68	+18.86%
METALS	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
Gold (oz)	1,900.70	1,870.20	+4.01%
Silver (oz)	23.87	23.60	+2.34%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange				Money Rates	
ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx	CLOSE	PREV.	CLOSE	WK.
Britain	1.3623	.7341		Prime rate	3.25 3.25
Canada	.7876	1.2697		3-mo. T-Bill	0.38 0.41
China	1578	6.3384		6-mo. T-Bill	0.66 0.75
Euro	1.1365	.8799		5-yr T-Note	1.85 1.96
Japan	.008704	114.89		10-yr T-Note	1.97 2.03
Mexico	.049223	20.3157		30-yr T-Bond	2.31 2.31

Global Markets				
CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG.	%YTD	
Frankfurt	15,267.63	-102.67	-.67%	-3.89%
London	7,537.37	-.66	-.87%	+2.07%
Hong Kong	24,792.77	+73.87	+.30%	+5.96%
Nikkei	27,232.87	-227.53	-.83%	-5.41%

Stocks of Local Interest

STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD	STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	18.94	-.73	-30.4	Matterport Inc A (MTTR)	6.54	-1.38	-68.3
AT&T Inc (T)	23.76	-.18	-3.4	Meta Platforms Inc (FB)	207.71	-8.83	-38.2
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	112.37	-.53	-21.9	Meten Holding Group (METX)	.21	-.03	-15.2
Altice USA Inc (ATUS)	11.83	-2.57	-26.9	MetLife Inc (MET)	69.81	-1.72	+11.7
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	18.22	-.60	+1.4	Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	290.73	-8.77	-13.6
Amphenol Corp (APH)	75.48	-.47	-13.7	Novartis AG (NVS)	86.66	-1.28	-.9
Annaly Capital Mgmt (NLY)	7.08	-.20	-9.5	Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	245.07	-20.04	-16.7
Apple Inc (AAPL)	168.88	-3.67	-4.9	Old NBcp IN (ONB)	17.61	-.88	-2.8
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	44.14	+.25	-11.5	Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	76.22	-2.41	-12.5
Bank of America (BAC)	46.07	-.61	+3.6	Palantir Technol (PLTR)	11.77	-2.20	-35.4
Barnes Group (B)	47.42	-.42	+1.8	PayPal Holdings (PYPL)	105.20	-5.34	-44.2
Barclay Gold (GOLD)	23.23	+.00	+22.3	Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	20.82	-.52	+16.8
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2623.95	-.79.31	+9.4	Pfizer Inc (PFE)	48.90	-.78	-17.2
Brist Myr Sb (BMY)	67.39	-.21	+8.1	Pitney Bowes (PBI)	4.79	-.05	-27.8
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	102.30	-.64	-5.58%	Prudential Fncl (PRU)	114.25	-3.91	+5.6
Carnival Corp (CCL)	22.42	-.89	+11.4	Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	64.73	-.06	-3.0
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	44.58	-.07	-17.8	Raytheon Technol (RTX)	94.36	-.39	+9.6
Charter Commuc (CHTR)	597.83	-11.63	-8.3	Rogers Corp (ROG)	272.54	-.21	-.2
Cigna Corp (CII)	227.11	-.89	-1.1	Roblox Corp (RBLX)	54.49	+.62	-47.2
Cisco Syst (CSCO)	55.77	+.15	-12.0	SS&T Technologies (SSNC)	74.69	-.158	-8.9
Clover Hlth Inv (CLOV)	2.18	-.28	-41.4	Snap Inc A (SNAP)	39.45	-.56	-16.1
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	46.77	-.32	-7.1	SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	12.18	-.90	-23.0
Disney Inc (DIS)	152.95	-.40	-1.3	Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	162.79	-.438	-13.7
DorrDash Inc (DASH)	105.03	+.10	-29.5	Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	24.29	-.51	...
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	114.93	-.25	-9.8	Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.61	-.03	+5.7
Ethan Allen (ETD)	24.76	-.30	-5.8	Technip Corp (FTI)	6.70	-.11	+13.2
Eversource Energy (ES)	82.28	+.63	-9.6	Terex Corp (TEX)	42.54	-2.47	-3.2
Exela Technologies (XELA)	.77	+.04	-12.5	Travelers Cos (TRV)	170.59	-1.68	+9.1
Ford Motor (F)	17.54	-.47	-15.6	Uber Technologies (UBER)	35.71	-.87	-14.8
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	5.26	-.24	+1.2	United Rentals (URI)	314.21	-10.91	-5.4
Gen Dynamics (GD)	214.40	-.01	+2.8	UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	470.34	-9.71	-6.3
Gen Electric (GE)	98.46	-2.95	+4.2	Urban Edge Prop (UE)	18.31	-.36	-3.6
Hartford Fn Sv (HIG)	70.62	-.60	+2.3	Virgin Galactic Hdg (SPCE)	9.01	-1.02	-32.7
Honeywell Intl (HON)	184.59	-4.47	-11.5	Virtus Invest (VRTS)	250.94	-13.02	-15.5
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	15.82	-.41	-.6	Voya Financial (VOYA)	69.11	-3.28	+4.2
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	22.43	-.41	-11.4	Webster Financial (WBS)	60.18	-.180	+7.8
Intel Corp (INTC)	47.57	-.66	-7.6	Wells Fargo & Co (WFC)	56.15	-1.99	+17.0
Kaman (KAMN)	42.45	-.53	-1.6	White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1042.39	-17.45	+2.8
Keycorp (KEY)	25.73	-.88	+11.2	World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	58.63	+1.18	+18.8
Kinross Gold (KGC)	5.81	-.05	...	XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	70.96	-.45	-8.4
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	70.32	-3.19	+3.0	Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	22.07	-1.11	-2.5
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	28.11	-.89	-26.1	Yamana Gold Inc (AUY)	4.81	+.21	+14.0
MGM Resorts Int'l (MGM)	43.68	-1.49	-2.7				
Marathon Oil (MRO)	21.89	+.82	+33.3				
Marin Software Inc (MRIN)	3.76	+.49	+1.3				

A-Rod part of group making a run at Trump's hotel in DC

Helen Bennett
Executive Editor
hbennett@courant.com

OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

Blame Mitch McConnell or Brad Pitt?



Gail Collins

When lawmakers meet to study the 2020 census results and redraw their congressional and state legislative districts, their overriding goal is generally:

A. Creating an attractive map in which the boundaries resemble birds in full flight and cute rainforest creatures.

B. Creating districts with clear, logical lines that have no relationship to political advantage whatsoever.

C. Destroying the other party and making sure their own personal districts are totally safe even if they get caught torturing small puppies.

Decennial redistricting doesn't dance off the tongue, but it is important, and this season, there's plenty to howl about.

It sometimes helps to give the most egregious examples funny names, just to get some attention. The 3rd Congressional District in Maryland was once known as the "broken-winged pterodactyl" because of the peculiar way it was carved out. A writer described one proposed Texas

district as "a bit like a gulper shark, with two dorsal fins protruding from its back."

The problem is gerrymandering, and one of the worst things about sneaky partisan line-drawing is how it can drain power from minority voters. Sometimes this is due to racism and sometimes political plotting, but either way it's terrible.

There's nothing in the U.S. Constitution about gerrymandering, and reformers who turn to the courts generally have to rely on state constitutions. Consider Ohio, where in the last cycle one district was stretched so thin it was called the "snake by the lake." The snake was created by Republicans who wanted to make two Democratic incumbents compete for the same seat despite living about 100 miles apart.

"Ohioans voted overwhelmingly to create a bipartisan redistricting commission," said Prentiss Haney of the Ohio Organizing Collaborative, which has been fighting this fight for years. It's a noble battle but probably one that's difficult to get people to discuss at social events not dominated by redistricting groupies.

Said bipartisan commission, Haney told me, was still dominated by Republicans,

whose efforts were not exactly a model of evenhandedness: "We sued, and the Ohio Supreme Court ruled the maps were illegal." The beat went on, and the commission is still at work, having been sent back a second time by the court. New maps are supposed to be in by the end of this week, after which, Haney noted, "we have three days to object."

There has to be a special place in heaven for people who spend their time making this process fair or even reasonable. I know you'd like to be among them, but deep in your heart a lot of you are just pondering which party will end up with the advantage in the next election.

"There was a lot of expectation the Republicans were going to exploit the process and that would give them control of the House," said Ken Miller, a professor of government at Claremont McKenna College in California. "But it looks like the Democrats will come out at least equal and maybe advantaged."

Ha, Democrats! I'll bet some of you figured your side was doomed because of Republican chicanery. But look at New York, which has a Democratic governor

and a legislature with a whopping Democratic majority. It's losing one seat in Congress because of dropping population, but thanks to what Miller calls "creative line-drawing," its delegation will probably have three more Democrats.

"We were expecting to do well in New York, and now, we'll lose four seats and the Old Broken-Down Crow, Mitch McConnell, sits back and does nothing to help the party," complained Donald Trump, managing to blame someone with as much to do with redistricting in New York as Brad Pitt.

If the Democrats are taking the advantage, it has nothing whatsoever to do with a better sense of civic virtue among the opposition. Up in Wisconsin, Republicans managed to come up with a plan in which 62 of the 99 seats in the state Assembly would have a larger percentage of Republicans than the state as a whole.

On the plus side, in this age of ideological shrieking, it's kinda soothing to see everybody behaving like the sneaky, pragmatic backroom pols of yore.

Collins is a columnist for The New York Times.

Midterms will signal Trump's GOP clout



Carl P. Leubsdorf

What will it take for Donald Trump to wear out his welcome with a significant portion of the Republican Party?

It's a question political analysts have asked ever since Trump emerged as a GOP

force and began committing the kinds of unforced errors that might sink a normal politician.

Trashing war hero John McCain didn't do it. A tape with crude language about women didn't do it. Declaring he won an election he clearly lost and making unproven allegations of fraud didn't do it. Firing up a crowd that invaded the U.S. Capitol didn't do it. And disclosures he took classified papers home to Florida hasn't done it.

As Trump said at a 2016 Iowa campaign stop, "I could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody, and I wouldn't lose any voters, OK?"

But perhaps the one thing that could loosen Trump's hold on the GOP would be if Republican voters signaled by their choices that his backing is no longer "the strongest endorsement in U.S. political history," as he claimed recently.

The test will come in an array of 2022 primary contests, starting next month in Texas with a multicandidate primary for state attorney general and at least one Dallas-area congressional race.

They pit all-out Trump backers against Republicans less tied to the former president.

However, the year's more important tests of Trump's political clout will come later this year, in races for Georgia's governor and Wyoming's congressional seat.

In Georgia, Gov. Brian Kemp, a solid conservative narrowly elected four years ago, became a Trump target after certifying Joe Biden's victory and rejecting the former president's unproven fraud claims. Trump even said that Stacey Abrams, the Democrat who lost to Kemp and is running again, "might be better."

Trump persuaded former Sen. David Perdue, whose January 2021 defeat was at least partly due to Trump's obsession with



A cardboard cutout of former President Donald Trump seen Feb. 1 at a Georgia campaign event for David Perdue. ELIJAH NOUVELAGE/GETTY

the 2020 outcome, to challenge Kemp in the May 24 primary. Perdue now wants to reexamine the 2020 result.

In Wyoming, Trump seeks to unseat Rep. Liz Cheney, perhaps his highest profile GOP congressional critic.

The daughter of former Vice President Dick Cheney voted to impeach Trump after the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection and joined the Democrats' investigating committee.

Her primary opponent Aug. 16 is state Rep. Harriet Hageman in a state Trump won with more than 70% of the vote.

Here are some other potential show-downs:

■ Texas AG: Trump is backing embattled state Attorney General Ken Paxton, who is fighting a securities fraud indictment, ethics allegations and three opponents. The former president spurned George P. Bush, Jeb's son, George W.'s nephew and currently state land commissioner. Also running: Rep. Louie Gohmert, a strong Trump backer, and former state Supreme Court Justice Eva Guzman.

Paxton needs over 50% in the March 1 primary to avoid a runoff.

■ Texas 3rd District: Trump is a factor in this Dallas-area congressional race though he hasn't made an endorsement. Three primary foes have assailed Rep. Van Taylor, the conservative Republican incumbent,

for supporting a bipartisan panel to investigate the insurrection and voting to accept the 2020 election results.

In a possible precursor, Trump-backed Susan Wright lost to another Republican, Jake Ellzey, in last May's general election runoff for another Dallas-area congressional seat.

■ Texas governor: Polls show Trump-supported Gov. Greg Abbott well ahead of two GOP primary foes.

■ North Carolina Senate: Trump endorsed Rep. Ted Budd, but another pro-Trump conservative, Rep. Mark Walker, rejected GOP entreaties to quit the race. That could split the pro-Trump vote in the May 17 primary, helping former Gov. Pat McCrory, who has condemned the former president's efforts to overturn the election.

■ Alabama Senate: Trump is backing Rep. Mo Brooks, a strong congressional ally who addressed the rally that preceded the Jan. 6 march on the Capitol. Business groups support Katie Britt, a former top aide to retiring Sen. Richard Shelby, in the May 24 primary. A third candidate, former POW Mike Durant, could become a factor.

■ Georgia Secretary of State: Perhaps no state official has come more under Trump's fire than Republican Brad Raffensperger, whom he unsuccessfully pressured to reverse the state's result. Trump recruited

Rep. Jody Hice, who voted to overturn the election, to challenge Raffensperger.

■ South Carolina 1st District: Trump endorsed former state Rep. Katie Arrington in the June 14 primary against freshman Rep. Nancy Mace, who criticized his role in the Jan. 6 uprising.

■ Alaska Senate: Trump endorsed Kelly Tshibaka, a former state official, in the Aug. 16 primary against Sen. Lisa Murkowski. A persistent Trump critic, she voted to convict him for his Jan. 6 role.

In November, numerous general elections will show if Trump-backed candidates can attract enough non-GOP votes to defeat Democratic rivals. Many are in states that were crucial in 2020.

They include gubernatorial and secretary of state races in Arizona, Michigan, Nevada and Wisconsin, and Senate races in Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Georgia. In the latter, Trump recruited former University of Georgia football star Herschel Walker to challenge Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock.

The former president said he won't decide about running in 2024 until after the November midterms.

They may provide a better reading of his continuing clout within the GOP.

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How the left undermines employer-based health coverage

By Nina Owcharenko Schaefer
The Heritage Foundation

Negotiations on Build Back Better, the Biden administration's trillion-dollar social welfare package, have collapsed. But the exercise demonstrated that the left has not abandoned its quest to supplant private health insurance with government-run health care.

That's disturbing for several reasons. The majority of Americans get their health care coverage from their place of work, and employer-based health plans tend to offer patients greater access to a broader range of health care providers and services.

The number of Americans doing so is declining. In 2000, two-thirds of nonelderly Americans got their coverage through their employers. By 2018, that number had declined to 58%. The decline in was most prevalent among those earning less than four times the federal poverty level (\$51,520 in 2021).

While several factors have contributed to this trend, government policies have played a key role. The left's bid to cripple the private health insurance market took a big step forward with passage of

the Affordable Care Act, also known as "Obamacare." Among other things, the act introduced middle-class subsidies for government-run health care. Between 2014, when the law took full effect, and 2016, enrollment in employer-based coverage dropped by 3.6 million.

The Build Back Better proposal would have altered the health coverage landscape once again. It would have created a new government-run health program, made existing Obamacare subsidies more generous and extended them to more people, regardless of income. It also proposed easing the requirements to qualify for subsidies for those with access to employer-based coverage.

These and other changes would have steered more people out of their existing coverage and toward the government-run plan. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the policies embedded in the Build Back Better plan would result in 2.8 million fewer people with employer-based coverage.

And that's problematic.

Employer-based health plans typically offer more medical providers to choose from and access to more medical services

than government plans do. A 2021 Kaiser Family Foundation survey found that "Sixty-seven percent of covered workers in firms offering health benefits work in firms that offer one or more PPOs." In contrast, a Heritage Foundation report found that last year only 15% of Obamacare plans offered PPOs (down from 57% in 2014).

Job-based coverage has also been a testing ground for innovative strategies for health care delivery, improving outcomes and controlling costs.

Employer coverage has been a catalyst for the rise in Health Savings Accounts. According to a recent employer survey, enrollment in HSA-style plans, which combine a high deductible insurance plan with savings account mechanism, has grown from 3% in 2006 to 40% in 2021.

Employers have also launched initiatives to promote wellness and expand access to care. Today, 59% of all employer-based plans include wellness programs. Many are looking to continue and expand ways to improve access to care for workers. A recent survey of large employers found that 76% plan to keep telehealth benefits put in place during the pandemic; over half are considering adding on-site clinics. New

initiatives focused on price transparency and value-based purchasing are also on the rise.

That does not mean there are no problems with employer-based coverage.

The unlimited, tax-free benefits contribute to rising premiums and costs. Its design disproportionately benefits highly compensated employees. Moreover, tethering health care coverage to the place of work denies personal ownership, limits coverage portability and does not easily accommodate a changing labor market.

These shortcomings can be overcome by modernizing employer-based coverage through consumer-centered reforms. And that's a far wiser course than the government-based approach of the Left.

Build Back Better was the tip of the iceberg in the left's drive to undermine the private health insurance market and herd everyone into government-run health programs. Broader efforts, like "Medicare for all" and the so-called "public option," would ultimately eliminate employer-based coverage as we know it.

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Real Estate

Rentals

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The Residences at 540 New Park
will be accepting pre-applications
for apartments located at 540 New
Park Avenue, West Hartford CT 06110.
Eligibility for these units is subject to
household income limits and other
eligibility criteria under the federal
Low-Income Housing Tax Credit
(LIHTC) Program.

Current 2021-2022 LIHTC Maximum
Income Limits:

1 PERSON - \$43,860
2 PERSONS - \$50,100
3 PERSONS - \$56,340
4 PERSONS - \$62,580

Rents will range from approximately
\$837-\$1033 for a one bedroom and
\$995-\$1230 for a two bedroom unit
depending on household income level
(prices subject to change).

Interested applicants must apply
between February 16, 2022 and May
17, 2022 11:59pm. Applicants may
apply:

• Submitting a pre-application online
at www.540NewPark.com; or

• Requesting a paper pre-application
be mailed to the applicant, which
must be returned by mail to:

ATTENTION: Residences at 540 New
Park Waitlist, 80 Shield Street, West
Hartford CT 06110 with a postmark
date between February 16, 2022 and
May 10, 2022, and received no later
than May 10, 2022; or

• Requesting an appointment during
the application period if assistance
is needed to complete the pre-
application. Please note: Assistance
with completing the application will
be offered by appointment ONLY
to the current COVID Pandemic.

If you have a disability and require a
reasonable accommodation, please
call 860-993-7109.

Only one pre-application per family
will be accepted; duplicate pre-
applications will be disqualified.

This pre-application is accessible
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phone. After successfully completing
the pre-application, you may print the
confirmation of successful completion
of your application.

The Residences at 540 New Park
will be accepting pre-applications
for its housing or programs. Any
eligible individual with disabilities will
be served. Those who have visual or
hearing impairments will be provided
with the necessary information to
understand and participate in the
program. Efforts will be coordinated
to comply with the nondiscrimination
requirements of the Fair Housing Act.
This is an equal opportunity housing
development. www.540NewPark.com

For more information, call 860-874-8396

The Residences at 540 New Park
does not discriminate in admission or
access to its housing or programs. Any
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OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Avon
Henry Mazzie
Berlin
Emilia M. Francalangia
Bloomfield
Juanita Harrison
East Hartford
Carmen Feliciano
Ryszard Skiba
Enfield
Diane J. Normandin*
Betsy J. Slayton
Farmington
Aliza M. Jenkins
Henry Mazzie
Hartford
Carmen Feliciano
Joseph J. Gubala
Juanita Harrison
Aliza M. Jenkins
Manchester
James J. Karvoski*
Ryszard Skiba

Middletown
George E Dupree
New Britain
Emilia M. Francalangia
No Additional Town
Evelyn A. Cunningham*
James J. Karvoski*
Diane J. Normandin*
Joan Patlovich
Old Saybrook
George E Dupree
Other Towns in CT
Evelyn A. Cunningham*
Betsy J. Slayton
Torrington
Jay R. Barnes
West Hartford
Joan Patlovich
Windsor
Joseph J. Gubala
OUT OF STATE
Jay R. Barnes
Oakland, ME
Joseph J. Gubala
Wilbraham, MA

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Francalangia, Emilia M.(Ricciardi)



Emilia M. Francalangia, 93, of New Britain, passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at Autumn Lake Healthcare in New Britain. She was the widow of Amedeo Francalangia. Born in New Britain, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Rose (Barile) Ricciardi. Emilia resided in Campodipietra, Campobasso Italy during her early years and later returned to New Britain. She was formerly employed by Superior Steel Ball Co. before retiring. Emilia was a dedicated member of St. Ann Church of St. Joachim Parish in New Britain. Family meant everything to her whether it be celebrating holidays or just Sunday dinners. She loved to cook and will always be remembered for her unparalleled homemade lasagna, cavatelli, sauce, bread and pastries. Surviving are a son, Antonio Francalangia and his wife Christine of Kensington; a daughter, Eleanor Maulucci and her husband Robert of East Granby; a sister, Josephine Carozzi of New Britain; a brother-in-law, Carl Francalangia and his wife Antoinette of Plainville; six grandchildren, Michael Francalangia and wife Barbara-Jean, David Francalangia, James Francalangia, Sarena and husband Richard Smith, Robert Maulucci and his wife Melissa and Dino Maulucci and his wife Elizabeth. Emilia is survived by eight great-grandchildren, Grace, Joseph and Thomas Francalangia, Luca, Nico, Cecelia and Gabriella Maulucci, Dexter Smith and several nieces and nephews. In addition, she was predeceased by a brother Frank, a sister Angela and David's wife, Janis Francalangia.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday at 10 AM at Erickson-Hansen Funeral Home of Berlin/Porter's, 111 Chamberlain Hwy, Kensington, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 AM at St. Ann Church in New Britain. Burial will be in St. Mary Cemetery. Calling hours are Monday from 6-8 PM at the funeral home. Please share a memory of Emilia with the family in the online guest book at www.ericksonhansenberlin.com

ERICKSON-HANSEN

Berlin

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Harrison, Juanita



Juanita (Harris) Harrison, 84, of Hartford, CT, transitioned peacefully on February 12, 2022, in the comfort of her home. She was born in 1937 in Union SC, to the late Robert and Martha Jane Harris. Juanita is survived by her daughters, Janie Williams, Mary Alice Harrison, son James Harrison Jr., and the late Theodore and Robert Harrison. "Celebration of Life" will be Saturday, February 19, 2022, at 11:00AM with a calling hour from 10am-11am at Mount Olive Church Ministries, 20 Battles St. Hartford CT, 06102. Burial will follow at Spring Grove Cemetery, 2035 Main St. Hartford CT. 06102. To leave a message of comfort for the Harrison family and view the full obituary, please visit, www.hkhfuneralservices.com

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Skiba, Ryszard



Ryszard Skiba, 78, of East Hartford, beloved husband for 45 years of Feliksa (Lulewicz) Skiba, passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 17, 2022. Born in Poland on January 11, 1944, he was the son of the late Franciszek and Rozalia (Zolodz) Skiba. Ryszard came to the U.S. in 1974 and worked as an inspector at Textron and Stowe Machine. Ryszard will be forever missed by his devoted wife Feliksa; son Tommy Skiba and his wife Jamie Skiba of East Hartford and other son Robert Skiba and his wife Lana Skiba of Gales Ferry and his four adored grandchildren, Catherine, Jeremy, Abigail and Grace. He is also survived by his brother, Tadeusz Skiba of Manchester; his sister, Czeslawa Gurniak of Poland; his sister-in-law, Wanda Borajkiewicz; his brother-in-law, Edmund Lulewicz, both of New Haven; two nephews, Bogdan Bak and Andrzej Skiba, as well as many other nieces, nephews and extended family members in Poland. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, February 19 at 10 a.m. at SS. Cyril & Methodius Church, 63 Popieluszko Court, Hartford. Everyone is asked to please go directly to the church. Burial will follow in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery, Bloomfield. Family and friends may call on Friday, February 18 from 5-7 p.m. at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Blvd., Wethersfield. To share a memory of Ryszard with his family, please visit www.desopofuneralchapel.com.

**D'Esopo
Funeral Chapel**

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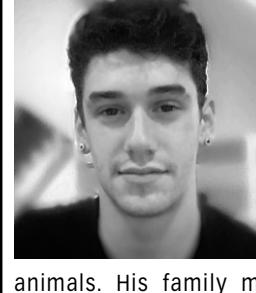
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OBITUARIES

Church, Basil T



Basil Thomas Church, known to his family and friends as Tom, Tommy or Baz, 23, of 44 Woolam Road in East Windsor, CT passed away far too soon on February 14, 2022. Born March 17, 1998 in Portland, Maine to Tammy Noble and Steven Church, Tom grew up in Maine, beginning his love of nature and animals. His family moved to East Windsor in 2011 where he attended high school and began working for his grandfather's business, Noble Industrial Furnace. Recently, his love for animals led him to dog and cat rescue and rehoming, traveling the country to find kittens and puppies, matching them with loving homes here in New England. He has brought lasting joy to his family with a long list of furry critters, especially his dog Goose who will miss their long walks.

Tom's love for all forms of music lifted his life. He held music close to him, and shared it with whomever he could. He was a loyal New England sportsman, loved hiking trails in the Hartford area with all kinds of dogs and friends, working on the farm in the summer putting in hay with his family, and exploring life as much as could. He was always a people person and enjoyed many good times and shenanigans with those he was closest to. Love of family and friends was always a top priority, helping those in need and taking on a task without question.

Tom is survived by his parents, his beloved siblings Charlie and Caroline, his grandparents Ray and Cheryl Noble of East Windsor, Sue Annelli of Goodland, Florida and Sally Church of Rangeley, Maine and his stepfather John Rafuse. He is also survived by his uncle Dan Noble of East Windsor, his cousins Liam and Lucy Noble, a long list of extended family and friends, too many to list, and Goose, the dog he loved so much.

Calling hours will be Saturday, February 19, 2022 at the Bassinger & Dowd Funeral Home in East Windsor, from 1 to 3 pm. In lieu of flowers, please send a contribution to The Tampa Zoo where you can adopt a Shoe Billed Stork for Tom.

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Gubala, Joseph J.



Joseph J. Gubala, 67, passed away peacefully on Monday, February 14, 2022 at Baystate Wing Hospital, Palmer. Born in Hartford, CT to the late Joseph J. and Mary E. (Mientus) Gubala, he had lived in Wilbraham since 1987. Joe was a computer programmer in the software industry for many years. Most recently, Joe worked for NOW Plastics in East Longmeadow. He is survived by his beloved wife of 34 years Monica (Salls) Gubala and their loving daughter Maryann Gubala, both of Wilbraham. Visitation will be held on Sunday, February 20th from 2:00 - 4:00 PM at Wilbraham Funeral Home, 2551 Boston Rd., Wilbraham. Burial will take place in the Spring. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10306, or CT Cat Connection, 40 Stevens Hill Rd., Windsor, CT 06095.

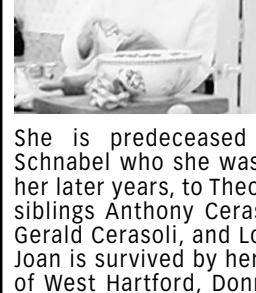
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Mazzie, Henry

Henry Mazzie, 98, died on January 31, 2022. He was the son of the late Gervasio and Giacoma Mazzei of Hartford. He graduated from Weaver High School in 1944 and then served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. He went on to earn B.S. and M.S. degrees from Central Connecticut State University and taught in the West Hartford Public School system for many years before retiring. Henry loved spending time with his family and dogs, and enjoyed playing tennis, fishing, skiing, and traveling throughout the U.S. and Canada on summer road trips with his wife. He is survived by Adele Mazzie, his wife of 77 years, who resides at Brookdale Gables in Farmington, and by his daughter, Kathleen Blits of Annapolis, Maryland.

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Patlovich, Joan



Joan Schnabel Patlovich, 88, previously from West Hartford, CT, passed away peacefully on Feb. 5, 2022, at Hospice in Gainesville, FL. She was joined in spirit and in body by her seven children as she passed comfortably. Joan was born in West Hartford, CT, the daughter of Romoli and Concetta (Tarquino) Cerasoli.

She is predeceased by her husband John (Jack) Schnabel who she was married to for 44 years, and in her later years, to Theodore Patlovich, as well as by her siblings Anthony Cerasoli, John Cerasoli, Aida Savluk, Gerald Cerasoli, and Lorna Pruyin.

Joan is survived by her children John (Janice) Schnabel of West Hartford, Donna LaGier of Arlington, VA, Patti (John) Plantier of Yardley, PA, Carol (Stuart) Phillips of Branford, CT, William (Stephanie) Schnabel of West Suffield, CT, Robert (Peter Anton) Schnabel of Fairfield, CT, and Joan (Scott) Jones of Clayton, CA. Joan leaves behind nine grandchildren and twenty-three great grandchildren.

Joan worked many years as an administrative assistant. She was a hard worker and always possessed a positive spirit and a can-do attitude.

Joan will be remembered as a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother, and friend to all she encountered. She amazed friends and family with her colorful gardens, beautiful home decorating and outstanding delicious meals.

Her happiest moments were being with friends and family and being able to laugh every day and live life with joy and adventure. Joan loved children, and had a special gift to tell stories that made them smile.

The family will celebrate her rich life with a graveside service at the Riverside Cemetery in Farmington, CT on June 18, 2022, at 11:00 AM. All are welcome.

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Barnes, Jay R.



OAKLAND, MAINE-Jay Barnes, born April 13, 1967, passed away in his home on January 27, 2022.

Jay was raised in Canton, CT as the youngest of five children. With his family's involvement in the sport, Jay developed a love for auto racing at a young age. As an adult he not only remained a fan, but both worked on race teams and was given opportunities to drive.

Jay also had a passion for cooking, crafted in time spent working at the local hot spot in Canton, Kelly's, where so many late night and early morning memories were made. Though possibly his favorite accomplishment was being a family man with his daughter, Caitlyn and his wife, Jennifer. From teaching Caitlyn how to drive, to being there for every school event, and working in her store. With Jennifer he shared racing, love, and life. Jay was also a great friend, keeping close contact with old schoolmates through social media.

Jay is survived by his parents, Mary, and Donald Barnes; his siblings, Vonetta, Gary, Todd, and Jeff; many nephews and a niece; his daughter Caitlyn; and his wife, Jennifer.

Jay's generosity, kindness, and humor knew no bounds and he will be missed endlessly.

At this time, no services will be held but are expected to be announced at a later date.

Arrangements are in the care of Wheeler Funeral Home, 26 Church St., Oakland, where condolences may be shared with the family on the obituary page of the website at www.familyfirstfuneralhomes.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Dupree, George E

George Everett Dupree Jr, 80, of Killingworth, CT passed away unexpectedly on February 11, 2022. He was the son of the late George Everett Dupree and Blanche (Witham) Dupree.

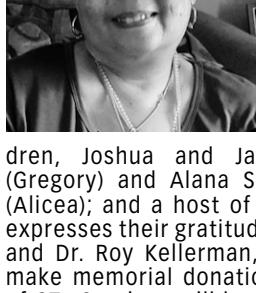
He was known for his interest in local history and was a former member of the Board of Directors of the Killingworth Historical Society.

He is survived by his wife Susan Dupree of Kansas, OK; his daughter Diana Dupree of Kansas, OK; his son Gregory (Valorie) Dupree of Kansas, OK; his brother Robert Dupree of Cromwell, CT; his sister Sandie (Michael) Johnson of Collins, NY; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Services will be private.

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Jenkins, Aliza M.



Aliza Michelle Jenkins "Lisi", age 54, passed away peacefully at St. Francis Hospital, Hartford, CT on February 14, 2022. She was born on November 24, 1967 in Staten Island, NY to Beverly Jenkins and the late Alan Jenkins. Those left to cherish her memory: mother, Beverly Hunter (Warren); daughter, Jasmine Gentry; grandchildren, Joshua and Jayda; sisters, Allison Jackson (Gregory) and Alana Sanders; brother, Tyrell Jenkins (Alicea); and a host of family and friends. The family expresses their gratitude to the ICU doctors and nurses, and Dr. Roy Kellerman, Sr. In lieu of flowers, please make memorial donations to the Brain Injury Alliance of CT. Services will be announced at a later date.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Slayton, Betsy J.



Betsy J. Slayton, 68, of Enfield, CT, entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, February 15, 2022, in the comfort of her home with Paul Slayton, her loving husband of 35 years, at her side.

Betsy was born on August 16, 1953 in Morristown, NJ, daughter of the late George and Frances Moschberger and had resided in Enfield for the past 41 years. Betsy was a long-time employee at the Tobacco Valley Teachers Federal Credit Union, with over 21 years of service. In her leisure time she enjoyed boating, fishing, gardening and a good game of poker.

In addition to her husband Paul, Betsy is survived by her daughter Michele Davis of Jacksonville, FL, her son William Maxwell of Sandy Hook, CT, stepson Derek Slayton, stepdaughter Mistene Stoddard, her siblings Carolyn Cessna, Joan Christie and John Moschberger, and several nieces and nephews.

Betsy was the loving and proud grandmother to many grandchildren who will all miss her dearly: Cali Daly, Brooks and Delaney Feder, Julia and Ben Slayton, and Aiden and Logan Stoddard. She was also preceded in death by her granddaughter Kendra Maxwell-Jones, alongside of whom she will be laid in eternal rest.

Relatives and friends are invited to gather with her family on Sunday, February 20, 2022 from 1:00pm to 3:00pm at Browne Memorial Chapels in Enfield, followed by a service for remembrance and sharing of memories. Interment will be private at the convenience of the family in St. Patrick King Street Cemetery in Enfield. In lieu of flowers, Betsy would appreciate that memorial donations be made to the Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center (Fund Development/Harford Hospital, P.O. Box 3037 Hartford, CT 06101-9960.) To leave an online condolence message for the family visit: www.brownmemorialchapel.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

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Hartford Courant

CONNECTICUT

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Teachers protest over school safety

Escalating violence reported at New Britain High as school board faction pushes for new leadership

By Don Stacom
Hartford Courant

Angered by ongoing disruptions at New Britain High School, dozens of teachers held a brief protest Thursday morning and a contingent of the school board wants to consider buying out the remainder of Superintendent Nancy Sarra's contract.

New Britain High has been the scene of fights in recent weeks, parents said, and some board

members say they're getting complaints about a chaotic atmosphere without discipline.

"We've been in lockdown three times in the past two weeks," teachers union President Stephen Gray said after a brief "walk in" protest outside the high school.

Sarra issued a written statement Thursday saying the administration cares about safety.

"We have added multiple staff members at New Britain High School, and all other schools, to

ensure the safety of all New Britain staff and students," it said. "We have been working closely with the police department through ongoing communication to ensure there is extra police presence at our buildings."

Teachers wearing "safe schools" and "we demand change" stickers stood outside the building until 7:15 a.m. and then walked in as a group. The action, led by the New Britain Federation of Teachers Local 871, was intended to show they don't feel the school is operating safely.

"We've been on a downward spiral for many, many years," said

Susan Humanick, a union vice president representing high school faculty.

She cited "the lack of supervision, the lack of rules, the lack of enforcement of rules," and said this year teachers have seen "a rapid, rapid decline in student behavior where it's resulting in guns, knives, bullets."

Last week, a 16-year-old student was wounded in a shooting in the middle of the day about a block from the school. Parents said there have been knives found in the building this winter, and reports that one or more students brought bullets in and threw them at walls.

The 2,200-student New Britain High was plagued so badly by fights and vandalism at the start of the school year that administrators tried to switch to virtual learning for three days.

State education officials balked, however, and the school abruptly reversed course, reopening after a one-day shutdown. Administrators said that was enough to time to review and revise discipline protocols.

At the time, Sarra and Principal Damon Pearce held online meetings to reassure parents. They

Turn to Teachers, Page 2

CORONAVIRUS IN CONNECTICUT

Steady decline in cases, deaths

Things are going in the right direction,' UConn doctor says

By Alex Puttermann
Hartford Courant

Connecticut COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths have all dropped over the past week, state numbers show, reflecting the state's continued recovery from a devastating omicron variant surge.

The state has averaged 776 cases a day over the past week, fewest in a seven-day stretch since before Thanksgiving. Meanwhile, hospitalizations have reached their lowest level since late November, before omicron arrived in Connecticut.

"Things are going in the right direction," Dr. David Banach, hospital epidemiologist at UConn Health said Thursday. "We're seeing fewer [cases and hospitalizations], and that is encouraging."

Still, cases and hospitalizations remain at higher levels than Connecticut experienced last summer and early fall, and the state continues to see a substantial number of deaths linked to COVID-19, including 105 this past week.

Banach said he continues to wear masks in public but, as cases decline, has become more comfortable going mask-free in groups of vaccinated people.

"These decisions are still individualized based on individuals' risk and comfort," he said. "Knowing that overall the risk is lower than it was six weeks ago, that may support people feeling comfortable with things they may not have been doing six weeks ago."

Turn to Virus, Page 2



The chief executive officer of Eversource Energy said Thursday the utility made progress in 2021 securing federal backing for siting wind power turbines in the Atlantic Ocean. Pictured here are wind turbines off Block Island, Rhode Island. MICHAEL DWYER/AP

Superior State Pier?

Eversource CEO hails site among Eastern Seaboard's best for wind power projects

By Stephen Singer | Hartford Courant

The State Pier in New London has been sullied by a Connecticut scandal, but Eversource Energy's chief executive officer has praised it as a superior location along the Eastern Seaboard to assemble wind energy turbines.

"It is probably the best site for this work between Norfolk, Virginia, and Halifax, Nova Scotia," CEO Joe Nolan told industry analysts Thursday on a conference call reviewing Eversource's fourth-quarter and 2021 financial results. "And only 60 to 65 miles from our nearest turbine locations."

Caroline Pretyman, a spokeswoman for Eversource, said State Pier's proximity to offshore leases presents a "strategic opportunity" for the industry to site wind turbine component assembly and fabrication facilities.

In addition, State Pier has no overhead obstructions to impede the movement of turbines, she said.

Eversource has a lot at stake in the State Pier as the utility prepares to spend billions of

dollars in the next few years developing wind power.

The State Pier has been swept up in investigations into state building construction spending projects overseen by Konstantinos Diamantis, the former deputy secretary of the Office of Policy and Management who was fired last year by Gov. Ned Lamont.

Work to upgrade and enlarge the State Pier to make it suitable to assemble wind turbines before they're towed out to the Atlantic Ocean also has been snarled in cost overruns and delays. An initial price tag of \$93 million has ballooned to nearly \$236 million. An original completion date of next month is now off by a year.

Nolan's praise was part of an upbeat accounting of Eversource's

growing wind power business. But as with nearly all areas of the U.S. economy, supply chain problems are causing trouble for the project spearheaded by the Boston- and Berlin-based utility and Orsted, a Danish energy company.

Eversource's offshore wind business had "more positive developments over the past 13 months" than in the previous three years combined, Nolan said.

The federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management last year set schedules for review of Revolution Wind that will provide 400 megawatts to Rhode Island and 304 megawatts to Connecticut and Sunrise Wind that will generate 924 megawatts for New York.

Turn to State Pier, Page 2

Weighing legacy admissions

Lawmakers consider bill to bar boost for children of alumni as part of college application process

By Daniela Altomari
Hartford Courant

State lawmakers are weighing legislation that would bar public and private colleges from considering legacy status as part of the application process.

The practice, which gives the children of alumni an admissions boost, has come under increasing scrutiny in recent years. Critics say legacy admissions perpetrate inequality by providing a powerful advantage to high-income white applicants.

"It really only serves to give a leg up to students who already have a substantial leg up in the admissions process," Logan Roberts, a junior at Yale University, told members of the legislature's higher-education committee Wednesday.

Roberts, whose father is a mail carrier and whose mother is a hairdresser, said legacy admissions discriminate against low-income and first-generation students. The practice took hold in the 1920s at Ivy League institutions looking to restrict Jewish applicants.

"When we look at the history of legacy preference, we see it's one that's rooted in antisemitism and anti-immigrant sentiment," he said.

In response to the national

racial-justice movement following the killing of George Floyd in 2020, several universities no longer consider legacy, including Johns Hopkins and Amherst College. And a bill pending in Congress would ban institutions from using legacy preferences if they participate in federal student-aid programs.

"This practice is both unfair and a relic of a past from which we must move on," said Amy Dowell, state director of Education Reform Now CT, which backs the measure. "By its very definition it disadvantages first-generation college applicants. Furthermore, research shows that legacy students are more likely to be wealthy and white than their

Turn to College, Page 2

"When we look at the history of legacy preference, we see it's one that's rooted in antisemitism and anti-immigrant sentiment."

— Logan Roberts, junior at Yale University

Police, mental health professionals team up

State-funded program aims to help avoid use of force and meet needs of mentally ill or addicted

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

MIDDLETON — Middletown police recently launched a crisis intervention team, part of a statewide effort to calm volatile scenes and connect mentally ill and addicted people to the help they need.

Police Chief Erik Costa and Mayor Ben Florsheim said the state-funded team, now in its second week, already has paid dividends.

"Having this expertise in the police department is priceless," Costa said Thursday. "It's making a difference for my officers. It makes them more confident in their duties, more positive and forward-facing toward the community that needs them most — people in crisis."

An estimated 20% of police calls for service nationwide involve a mental health or substance use crisis, and for many departments, the demand is growing, according to the American Psychological Association.

In a nationwide survey of more than 2,400 senior law enforcement officials, about 84% said mental health-related calls have increased during their careers and 63% said time spent on mental illness calls also has increased.

More than half of the respondents cited an inability to refer people to needed treatment, according to the APA. References and follow-ups take time and resources that already strained police departments often lack.

In Middletown, two licensed

Turn to Police, Page 2

CONNECTICUT

Virus

from Page 1

Cases and positivity rate

Connecticut has reported 5,430 cases out of 123,235 tests over the past week, for a positivity rate of 4.41%.

After declining steadily in recent weeks, the state's positivity rate has plateaued the past few days, at a level lower than at any other point since late November but still higher than at previous points in the pandemic.

Connecticut's average of 776 daily over the past week is down from more than 10,000 at one point last month but still more than twice where it stood before the state's fall surge began. Unvaccinated residents have been about three times as likely to test positive in recent weeks as vaccinated residents, according to state numbers.

As of Thursday, 153 of Connecticut's 169 municipalities remain in the state's "red alert" category, meaning they have averaged at least 15 daily cases per 100,000 residents over the past week.

All eight Connecticut counties — along with nearly the rest of the country — are recording "high"

levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Hospitalizations

As of Thursday, Connecticut had 325 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, down from 529 a week prior and the fewest at a time since Nov. 28.

Hospital officials say some patients hospitalized with COVID-19 were admitted for non-coronavirus reasons before testing positive upon arrival but that a majority have significant COVID-19 symptoms.

According to the state, 47.4% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated. Hospital officials say the rate is significantly higher when considering only patients with severe symptoms.

Deaths

Connecticut reported 105 deaths over the past week on Thursday, bringing its total during the pandemic to 10,324.

COVID-19 deaths — which typically tend to lag other metrics by several weeks — have dipped

recently after increasing in December and January. Unvaccinated people in Connecticut have been more than 20 times as likely to die from COVID-19 in recent weeks as those who are vaccinated, according to state numbers.

The United States has now recorded 929,406 COVID-19 deaths, according to the Coronavirus Resource Center at Johns Hopkins University.

Vaccinations

As of Thursday, 93.5% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those 5 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 77.4% of all residents and 81.6% of those 5 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC.

Additionally, about 52.8% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

The CDC warns that booster shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

Alex Putterman can be reached at aputterman@courant.com.

State Pier

from Page 1

It's enough energy for about 950,000 homes.

Eversource expects final siting approvals in the second half of 2023, he said.

Assuming the schedules are met, Eversource expects the two projects to begin operating in 2025.

Nolan said supply chain problems over the past few months have driven up costs higher than planned for such items as offshore wind foundations, certain installation vessels, logistics and offshore substations.

"The pandemic and global growth in offshore wind have rapidly tightened the market and supply chain for offshore goods and services," he said.

Eversource secured many of its largest deals, such as a wind turbine agreement and wind turbine installation vessel charter, before inflationary pressures took hold, he said.

With its partner, Orsted, Eversource is finding savings in other areas to offset cost increases, Nolan said.

Eversource expects to spend between \$900 million and \$1



Then-executive vice president of Eversource Joe Nolan, left, met with Gov. Ned Lamont at the Capitol in Hartford in February 2020. Next to Nolan, who is now chief executive officer, is Thomas Brostrom, CEO of Orsted U.S. Offshore Wind. COURANT FILE PHOTO

billion this year in its offshore wind business and between \$3 billion and \$3.6 billion for three wind power projects from 2023 through 2026.

The utility outlined an overall capital spending plan of \$18.1 billion from 2022 through 2026.

Spending will include \$7 billion for Eversource's electric distri-

bution segment, \$4.5 billion in its natural gas distribution segment, \$4.6 billion for electric transmission, \$1.1 billion for information technology and facilities upgrades and \$890 million in water distribution.

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Police

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clinical social workers are embedded in the department and respond to certain scenes along with officers. The workers are state employees with River Valley Services, part of DMHAS. They have a broad knowledge of available services and can, with relative speed, assess suffering people and guide them to the right places, River Valley Chief Executive Officer Celeste Cremin-Endes said.

"They're going to have a deeper understanding of a person's psycho-social needs," Cremin-Endes said.

Costa said he would like to expand the Middletown team, which now works Monday through Friday on the day shift, to 24-hour service. The team's value is not only in service referrals, but also in de-escalating situations to avoid use of force, Costa said.

The social workers are dispatched to scenes after officers are sent and then work with officers to identify the needs of those involved. The team is able to divert people from both hospital emergency rooms and the judicial system, Costa, a former state trooper, said. At the same time, officers who work with the social workers gain valuable experience in crisis intervention, the chief said.

"Practically speaking, this means that our local providers can more easily tap into a statewide network

of resources," Florsheim said, "while state providers will have access to the local knowledge and partnership they need to be effective in meeting local needs."

Many departments do not have embedded crisis workers, but most police officers in the state have received some training in crisis intervention. The Connecticut Alliance to Benefit Law Enforcement (CABLE), a nonprofit organization, has provided training to 83 of the state's 94 municipal police departments, along with university and state police and federal agencies, organization founder and CEO Louise Pyers said.

The state partially subsidizes the 40-hour training, Pyers said. Each department pays \$175 per person. The demand for the training, she said, "is extremely high. Each class is filled to capacity, often with waiting lists."

About 85% of South Windsor police officers have received training from CABLE and the goal is to have all officers trained by the end of the year, department spokesman Sgt. Mark Cleverdon said.

"It allows our officers to gain some perspective on what others may be going through," Cleverdon said. "This program has allowed our personnel to handle crisis-related calls for service with compassion and empathy towards others."

In response to high-profile deaths of people with mental health issues in police custody, lawmakers in at least eight states have introduced legislation to

change how law enforcement agencies respond to those in crisis. The proposals lean heavily on additional training for officers on how to interact with people with mental health problems, the Associated Press reported.

Utah Gov. Spencer Cox signed legislation last year to standardize training for police crisis intervention teams statewide. The move was, in part, a response to the shooting and wounding of a 13-year-old boy whose mother called police, saying she needed help from a crisis intervention officer. Salt Lake City police ended up shooting the autistic boy multiple times as he ran away because they believed he made threats involving a weapon, the AP reported.

"We need him to go to the hospital," the mother of Linden Cameron had told an officer. "I need him to go to a hospital. I can't get him to get there on my own. And I cannot do this every night."

He was hospitalized, and no weapon was found. The officers were not crisis intervention specialists, but had some mental health training.

At least 34 states already require officers to have training or other education on interacting with people who have physical or mental health conditions. But law enforcement experts say updated training is needed and agencies are far behind.

"The training that police have received for the past I'd say 25 years has not changed significantly, and it's out of date, and it doesn't

College

from Page 1

peers."

Last year Colorado became the first state to ban public institutions from considering legacy status. The ban was largely symbolic as most state universities do not give legacy applicants an admissions advantage.

Connecticut's House Bill 5034 would apply to both public and private universities.

Nathan Fuerst, vice president for enrollment, planning and management at the University of Connecticut, said UConn does not take legacy into consideration as part of its admissions process.

But Fuerst and representatives from several private institutions said the bill signifies an incursion into the academic affairs

of Connecticut's colleges and universities.

"Fairfield University strongly opposes this bill on the premise that it is not appropriate for the state to be dictating admissions policies at private entities," university President Mark R. Nemic told the committee. "The university promotes access and opportunity but feels strongly that the complex admissions policies are best left to individual institutions."

Several lawmakers agreed.

"I don't think we should be micromanaging private institutions in their admissions practices," said Rep. Kurt Vail, a Republican from Stafford.

The committee could schedule a vote on the bill at a later date.

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Teachers

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consistently rejected students' complaints that the hallways had a free-for-all atmosphere where aggressive students ignored class bells and cursed at teachers with impunity.

Instead, Sarra and Pearce said a core group of 50 to 60 students were responsible for frequent misbehavior.

They contended that counseling, mentoring and a peer mediation group — rather than suspensions and other punitive means — are the foundation of the school's discipline policy.

But school board member Anthony Cane said he heard extensive parental concern when he was campaigning door-to-door this fall.

"A lot of parents said they want change, they want someone to be accountable," Cane said.

Sarra this winter announced she'll be retiring at the end of June, but Cane said that's not quick enough.

Cane and board members Matthew Marino, Anthony Kane and Tina Santana sent a memo Wednesday calling for a special board meeting next week "to review the performance of the superintendent and discuss her contract and a potential buyout."

"In the wake of recent events, the community has made it clear that they are concerned about safety in our schools," it continued. "Action needs to be taken to ensure the safety of our students and staff."

Sarra did not comment Thursday on that move.

Since Mayor Erin Stewart publicly criticized Sarra's administration last year over poor student performance, the school board has been divided about the superintendent.

All four members campaigning to oust her are Republicans; Chairwoman Gayle Sanders-Connolly is the only GOP member who didn't sign the memo. She noted that the shooting occurred off school grounds.

"We have a community problem, not a school problem," Sanders-Connolly said Thursday, saying she doesn't support the effort to remove Sarra.

Sarra's supporters maintain she has improved the 10,000-student school system despite years of flat-funded budgets from the city.

But Marino and Cane said too many parents and teachers believe her administration isn't doing enough to consistently maintain order at the high school.

"A lot of the staff say it treated as an open campus, and it appears that way to people driving by. That appears to be one of the causes of some of the problems," Marino said.

Cane, who lives near the high school, said he's seen students leaving in late morning and walking back an hour or two later.

"I've heard the (discipline) referral system isn't being utilized appropriately, that referrals are often ignored — that there's not communication between staff and the administration," Marino said.

"What appears on face value is a lack of action," he said. "If I'm a concerned parent, that wouldn't suffice for me."

talks with two local agencies about running a new civilian crisis intervention team to complement the police department. In addition to de-escalation, risk assessments and case management, the team also was to administer Narcan to people overdosing on opioids, help people with basic needs such as clothes, food and shelter and transport people to clinics, shelters and other service providers, according to the city's request for proposals.

The city budgeted \$5 million in surplus funds to create the corps of professional responders and scale it up over four years. Mayor Luke Bronin introduced the idea in June 2020, amid local and national protests against racism and police violence.

In 2020, Hartford police were sent to more than 11,000 calls for people in emotional distress. City officials estimated that half of those calls could be handled by a professional civilian, such as a social worker trained in de-escalation, risk assessments and case management.

The state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, which now has 18 adult mobile crisis teams statewide, is expanding deployment of crisis clinicians 24/7 "to offer these potentially lifesaving services in the community," the agency's interim commissioner, Nancy Navaretta, said. Those teams can be reached by calling 211.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

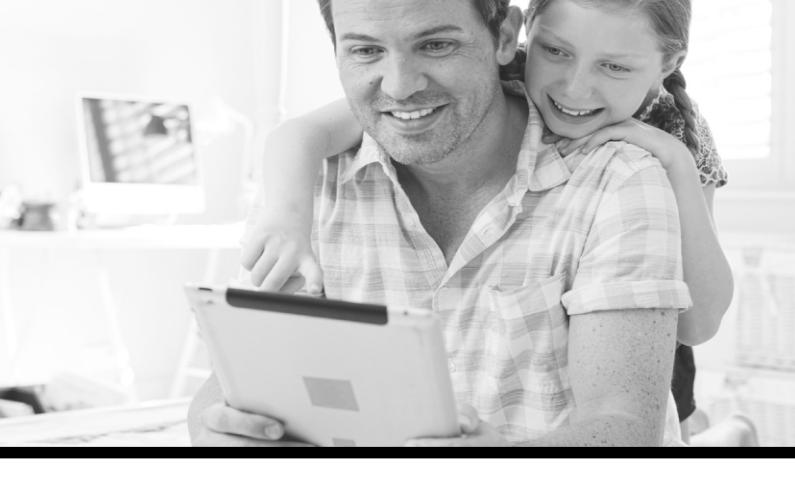
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Solitary confinement back in the crosshairs

Reemerges as major criminal justice issue for Connecticut lawmakers after last year's veto

By Kelan Lyons
CT Mirror

Members of the state's Judiciary Committee agreed this week to consider legislation ending the prison system's use of solitary confinement, resuming a conversation that ended abruptly last year with a governor's veto.

The committee approved the concept in its first meeting of the legislative session, meaning its members agreed to draft a bill and hold a public hearing.

In a separate hearing held earlier that morning, the commissioner of the Department of Correction told lawmakers the prison system doesn't subject the incarcerated to that form of punishment, thanks to the executive order Gov. Ned Lamont issued following his veto.

"There is no solitary confinement in the Connecticut Department of Corrections," Commissioner Angel Quirós told the Appropriations Committee.

The recent developments are related. Last year, legislators passed the PROTECT Act, a bill that would have sharply reduced the use of solitary confinement in the prison system. But Lamont vetoed that proposal, issuing an execu-

tive order in its place to reduce the Department of Correction's reliance on multiple forms of isolated confinement, like in-cell restraints and administrative segregation.

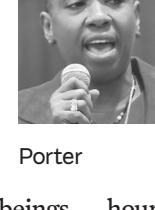
The Judiciary Committee's agreement to draft a bill and hold a public hearing on the concept of solitary confinement represents an effort to codify the governor's executive order — and perhaps go even farther to ensure the prison system remains in compliance.

Sen. Gary Winfield, D-New Haven, co-chair of the Judiciary Committee, said he remains concerned about the executive order because, without a change to the law, a sitting governor could decide they simply do not want to keep the mandate in place.

"What we're talking about are the conditions by which we treat human beings. Those should not be things that are basically in place based on a whim," Winfield said. "You can change a statute, but it's a much more difficult process to change than [when] a governor changes their mind, they receive political pressure and/



Winfield



Porter

or an election happens."

Quirós said that the governor's executive order ended solitary confinement within the prison system because it brought them into agreement with the so-called Nelson Mandela Rules, which define such isolation as keeping prisoners in their cells for 22 hours a day while denying them meaningful human contact.

Quirós said, per the executive order, the DOC is following those rules, and does not allow the incarcerated to be held in solitary for 22 hours a day for longer than 15 days over a 60-day period.

"I will respect the fact that you are using that definition, but I don't agree with that definition, and I would love to continue this conversation," state Rep. Robyn Porter, D-New Haven, told Quirós during the hearing. "I have a real issue with us thinking that, you know, 15 days in solitary confinement, two hours a day out of a cell, does not constitute isolation. I believe that it still does, and it has a tremendous mental and traumatic impact on the people that are being held in the facilities."

Quirós said the department has also greatly reduced the use

of administrative segregation, a program intended to curb dangerous behavior so prisoners can be transitioned safely back to the general population. The number of people held under that form of confinement has lowered dramatically since he was a warden, Quirós said, and those currently in this group are being let out of their cell for four hours a day.

"Prior to the executive order that individual would have been secured in his cell 23 hours a day," said Quirós. "So, it's a huge change."

There is a disconnect between the general public's use of the word "solitary confinement" and what the Department of Correction is referring to when it uses the same term, said Winfield. When most people refer to solitary, they're referencing prisoners being kept in a cell, alone; the DOC, meanwhile, uses terms like "administrative segregation" and "restrictive housing status," Winfield said, and claims that it uses those practices, not solitary confinement.

"That has confused this conversation," he said. "Don't worry about the word 'solitary confinement'; that's for the title of the bill. What we are concerned about, is the fact that through various forms and names, we are doing things that we should not be doing with human beings."

Winfield said the solitary

confinement bill will attempt to create an independent committee charged with oversight of the prison system. The measure is still a work in progress, but as of now, Winfield said, it would not create an ombudsman office similar to the one featured in the vetoed PROTECT Act.

"I believe that where we are now is looking at the issue of having an oversight committee that would do many of the things that we were using the ombuds person to do," he said. "But we have a long way to go in this very short session."

Quirós concluded his testimony to the Appropriations Committee by addressing the prison system's reasons for using solitary. He said there were 168 assaults on corrections staff last year. The last time there was a comparable number of assaults was in 2010, when there were 152 incidents — and double the number of people in prisons and jails.

"I need you to keep in mind my staff safety," Quirós said, emphasizing that change must be incremental so the incarcerated and DOC employees are protected. "I cannot operate safe facilities if the safety is jeopardized."

Reach Kelan Lyons at klyons@ctmirror.org. Copyright 2022 © The Connecticut Mirror. (<https://ctmirror.org/>).

'When life grinds you into flour, you gotta make more dough'

Vito's Rob Maffucci is back — this time with a takeout-only pizza place on the Berlin Turnpike

By Susan Dunne
Hartford Courant

Rob Maffucci is a happy man. He's cooking every day at his new takeout-only Vito's Pizza in Berlin. He smiles and laughs as he prepares his mother's traditional Italian recipes in the compact kitchen.

Memories of his earlier life can be seen in the café. Newspaper and magazine clippings tell of his 25-year status as one of the most beloved restaurateurs in downtown Hartford. A three-hour video loop shows clips of his gigs on Food Network shows, TV news cooking segments and other high-profile appearances.

Maffucci recalls those days fondly, and has let them go. V's Trattoria — which he opened in 2017 after Bushnell Park construction forced him out of Vito's by the Park — is gone now, too. Its location in the Prudential building made the 100-seat restaurant, as well as its catering and grab-and-go functions, an early victim of the coronavirus pandemic.

"That building had 3,000 occupants. Then it didn't have any occupants. We were across the street from Hartford Stage. Then there were no shows," Maffucci said. "For three years we were buzzing. We were doing just great. When winter came into 2020, we were setting records."

Then, nothing.

"Hartford was like a large building that people worked in. Now it's like a large building with no one in it, with a security guard on the bottom floor," he said.

The grab-and-go closed right away. V's held on for a while, then

Maffucci closed it in December 2020.

"I took a COVID sabbatical and watched the world go by," he said. Then he thought "when life grinds you into flour, you gotta make more dough." (Maffucci's sisters run the family's original location, in Wethersfield, but he no longer has a connection with that restaurant.)

He began to study what was not working, and what was, during the devastating era in the restaurant industry. He observed quick-service, to-go eateries thriving. He saw full-service restaurants that relied heavily on manpower suffering. He noticed that the cost of supplies were skyrocketing out of control.

He zeroed in on the spot once occupied by Pure Pizza at 1863 Berlin Turnpike. The location is small, precluding a big staff. It has no seating, unless you count the 12 barstools where customers wait for their orders.

Maffucci didn't need to buy tableware. Everything is takeout. Service would have to be fast. The parking lot is too tiny to accommodate anything else.

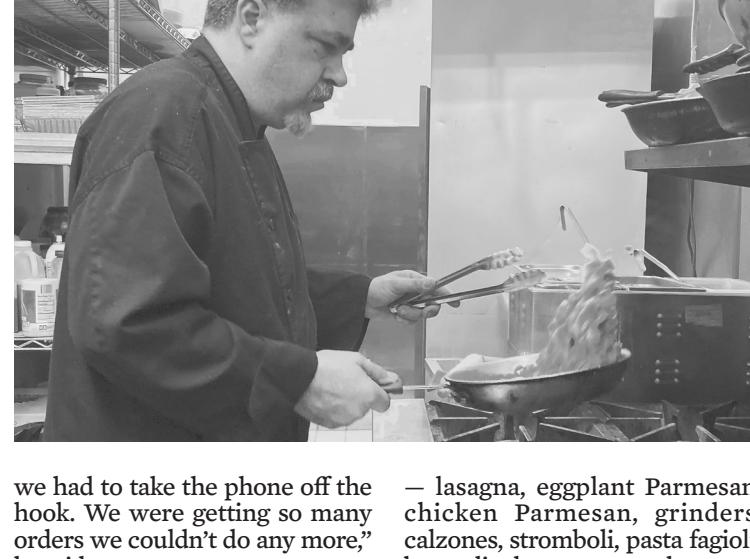
"I decided to go to my roots. I'm falling back on the tried and true, simple gourmet food made with passion," he said. "What really stands the test of time is good brick-oven pizza and pasta dishes. Everybody loves chicken Parmesan. It's comfort food. People can come and pick up a chef-made dinner and eat it in their homes."

He opened Vito's Pizza in mid-January and was an immediate success. Berlin residents seem to be bubbling over with delight that the acclaimed chef is theirs now.

"The first Friday we were open



Vito's Pizza is Rob Maffucci's new restaurant, the first since closing V's Trattoria in downtown Hartford as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. SUSAN DUNNE PHOTOS/HARTFORD COURANT



"I decided to go to my roots. I'm falling back on the tried and true, simple gourmet food made with passion."

— Rob Maffucci, left

we had to take the phone off the hook. We were getting so many orders we couldn't do any more," he said.

Among the dishes on the menu are spaghetti pomodoro, pasta alla Roberto, pasta alla vodka, fettuccine alfredo, pasta Bolognese — which he points out on the menu "made famous on the Food Network"

— lasagna, eggplant Parmesan, chicken Parmesan, grinders, calzones, stromboli, pasta fagioli, broccoli rabe, sausage and peppers and a variety of pizzas and salads. Vito's does catering too.

"I feel fantastic," he said. "I feel like I'm 30 years old again."

As happy as he is with his new spot, Maffucci is a veteran busi-

nessman, so the wheels never stop turning in his head. When warm weather comes, he will launch a food truck, Rolling Stone, at a permanent spot on the Connecticut riverfront, at Yankee Boat Yard & Marina at 54 Riverview St in Portland.

"I'm having a great time. I miss V's but not really. I always love the next thing I am doing. Things happen and you move on," he said.

Vito's Pizza is open Tuesday to Friday 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday noon to 9 p.m. and Sunday noon to 8 p.m. A ribbon cutting will be at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 23.

Susan Dunne can be reached at sdunne@courant.com.

Glastonbury council rules it cannot remove elected officials

By Steve Smith
Courant Community

GLASTONBURY — At its meeting on Feb. 8, the Glastonbury Town Council determined that it does not have the power to remove elected officials in town.

The council had been urged by some residents to remove two Board of Education members, after a discussion at a meeting on Dec. 14, over the change of the Glastonbury High School mascot, resulted in a physical altercation.

Arrests stemming from the inci-

dent were recently made.

Residents who submitted comments prior to the meeting included those who both supported removing the board members and those urging the council do not do so, even if it is allowed. Other residents urged the council to at least issue a position condemning the board members involved in the incident, and some opposed any effort to remove the board members.

Town Manager Richard Johnson explained that the town charter can be a bit of a challenge to understand, as one might have to look at multi-

ple sections, but that the town code limits the council's power to remove individuals to those who are appointed, as opposed to elected. State law also backs that up.

"You can't, under state law, so empower yourselves to remove members of other elected bodies," he said. "You can't amend the town charter."

Town Attorney Bruce Chudwick added that his firm, which represents the Town Council as well as the Board of Education, said it would not be a conflict of interest, as the firm represents the two

bodies as a whole, and it's "a narrow issue that the council has asked."

Chudwick concurred that the charter does not provide for removal of elected officials, but does for appointed officers, per a code of conduct.

"We looked at several things," Chudwick said, citing precedents and case law. "One court that looked at the specific issue ... they specifically stated that if the legislature wanted to give municipalities the power to remove elected officials, they had to state that specifically in the law, and they have not done

that."

He added that it was, at one time discussed, but the legislature did not move forward. A stronger provision prohibits removal of members of the Board of Education, because they are municipal officials, but are also agents of the state, because they implement the state's education policies.

The town's code of ethics also has strong but specific language regarding removal of elected officials, but would require a very specific violation and a long process, appealable to courts or other bodies.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Donald McGregor, AKA Donald N. McGregor (22-0074)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated February 14, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Rosemary L. Nolin, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Christine McGregor
c/o VANESSA FULLER, ATTORNEY AT LAW,
LLC, 1139 BOSTON POST ROAD, P.O. BOX
246, GUILFORD, CT 06437

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Brian J. Bouchard, Late of Chester, AKA Brian Joseph Bouchard (22-0066)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated February 14, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jacqueline Craco, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Margaret Roberto
c/o KENNETH J. McDONNELL, GOULD
LARSON ET AL, 30 PLAINS RD, ESSEX, CT
06426

2/18/22 7152010

LEGAL NOTICE**CHESTER PLANNING & ZONING
COMMISSION
NOTICE OF DECISION**

On February 10, 2022, the Chester Planning & Zoning Commission approved, with modifications, the following: Application for an Amendment to the Chester Zoning Regulations, modifying Section 40J regarding height limitations. Applicant: Brooke Mirty. Details of the application and decision may be obtained by contacting Zoning Officer John Guszkowski at zoningofficial@chesterct.org.

Bettie Perreault, Secretary
Chester Planning & Zoning Commission
2/18/2022 7150772

Notice is hereby given that Extra Space Storage will sell at public auction, to satisfy the lien of the owner, personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at location indicated:

Extra Space Storage, 56 Pameacha Ave, Middletown, Ct 06457 860-575-7610

February 23, 2022 at 11:00 AM

Bourbon Walker
Unit#1084
Household items

David Patrick Locklear
Unit#2015
Household items

Dina Hughes
Unit#2040
Household

Neil Alan
Unit#2153
Furniture

Nancy Young
Unit# 3154
Household items

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagegettreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

2/12/2022 7149122

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF William T. Heughins, Sr. (22-0002)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated February 15, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Rosemary L. Nolin, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Cynthia Florida, 6734 E. Lonesome Trail,
Cave Creek, AZ 85331
Mary R. Guerrera, 22 Ebony Lane, Ivorlyn,
CT 06442

2/18/22 7151701

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING/PUBLIC
HEARING
CHATHAM HEALTH DISTRICT**

Towns of Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough and Portland

The Chatham Health District Board of Health will hold a Special Meeting/Public Hearing on February 22, 2022 at 2 p.m. via Zoom, Meeting ID: 83182846439. The purpose of this Special Meeting is for the consideration of adopting the Proposed Chatham Health District 2022-2023 Budget.

At this hearing, interested persons may appear and be heard and written communications will be received.

The Proposed Chatham Health District 2022-2023 Budget is available for public review at <http://www.chathamhealth.org> and in any of the District Offices.

Russell Melmed
Director of Health
2/11, 2/18/2022 7146901

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**MIDDLETOWN ZONING BOARD OF
APPEALS**

MARCH 3, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENT MAY BE LIMITED TO FIVE MINUTES. PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS PRIOR TO OR AT THE PUBLIC HEARING

Request for a variance of Section 21.02 for the minimum front yard requirement to construct an extension of a covered porch and a new dining room at 35 Fairview Avenue. Applicant/agent Ann C. Burke V2022-1

Steven Kovach, Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals
2/18, 2/25/2022 7149646

2/18/22 7151701



**Property
of the Week**
**SUNDAYS IN
CTHOME**
& Real Estate

Hartford Courant

**Housing
Counsel**
**SUNDAYS IN
Home &
Real Estate**

Hartford Courant

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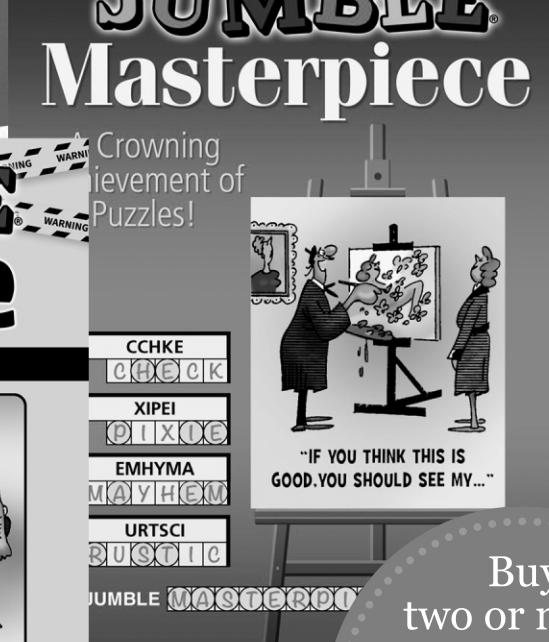
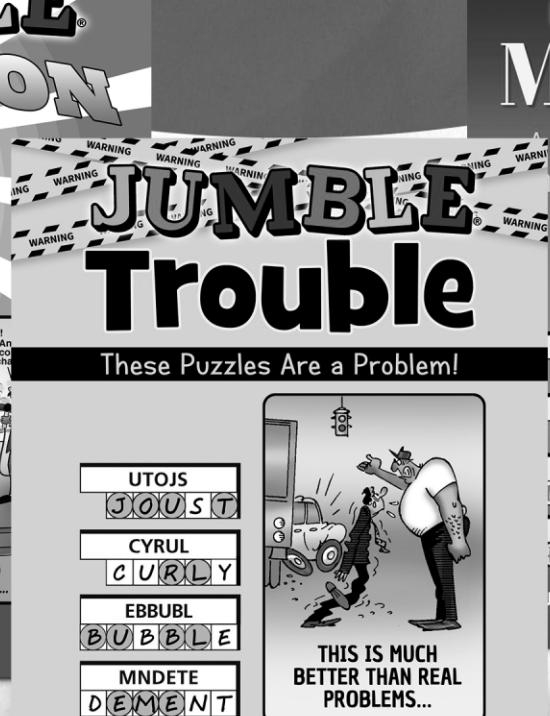
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LIVING

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Soderbergh, Kravitz build classic tech thriller

Director knew film 'Kimi' would hinge on main character

By Lindsey Bahr

Associated Press

Steven Soderbergh loves a good thriller — most people do, he knows. But he's always conscious of making sure that whatever it is, it isn't just "single use plastic."

"It's got some aspect to it percolating underneath that keeps it from being completely disposable after you've watched it," he said.

Needless to say, he was especially happy that the timing worked out for "Kimi," a classic, edge-of-your-seat thriller about a home assistant device that records what may have been a murder and the tech worker (Zoe Kravitz) who hears it. It's now streaming on HBO Max.

Screenwriter David Koepf ("Panic Room") had floated the idea years earlier after reading about the debates over whether Amazon Echo recordings could be used as evidence in crime cases. The script, which he wrote early in the pandemic, had shades of "Rear Window," "The Conversation" and "Blow Up," and was irresistible to Soderbergh.

"Thrillers allow you license to do things stylistically that you can't really get away with in a straight drama or a comedy," he said. "It demands a sort of bravura visual approach because that enhances the story."

He even helped design the device.

"I rarely have specific design ideas. But for whatever reason a shape occurred to me," he said. "I took one of them home with me, and I have it at the office



Director Steven Soderbergh and actor Zoe Kravitz, who stars as Angela, are seen on the set of "Kimi." **WARNER BROS. PICTURES**

as a memento."

But this film he knew would live and die on its main character, Angela Childs, a prickly, agoraphobic analyst with her own personal traumas who the camera is on most of the time.

Kravitz was not someone he knew personally, but he had been of a fan of her work for a while, especially in the Hulu comedy series "High Fidelity."

"I was convinced early on, that's a movie star," he said. "There's a specific challenge in having one person dominate the entire enterprise that I think is really fun if you have the right person, and she just has all the tools. In addition to being a natural beauty, she radiates intelligence. And she has molecular control over her body and voice and face. She

just can do it all, and this movie needed it all."

Kravitz was directly coming off "The Batman," a shoot that, because of COVID-19 complications, ran over a year.

She had wanted to work with Soderbergh, but she could also relate to Angela, having been essentially trapped in her own apartment for six months over the pandemic.

Because things moved so quickly, they didn't meet until the first day on set, though they had gotten a chance to bond over text. It was mostly "Mariah gifts," they said, but they also realized they had a similar working style when they decided to cut out the middlemen during one particularly ridiculous back and forth about scheduling a fitting. They solved in two

minutes what had already taken more than a week of emails.

Still, Kravitz wasn't entirely prepared for the "Soderbergh experience."

"The first day I came on the set to meet him thinking that we were going to just kind of shoot the (expletive) and talk about the weather. And I'm nervous and excited and I'm like, 'So nice to meet you in person.' He's like, 'Yes, you're going to start there, and you're going to come out here,' and I'm like, 'Oh, we're doing the movie now? OK,'" she said. "I walked on set thinking I was just going to meet him, and I left having shot the first scene of the movie."

She had known from friends that he worked fast, but she didn't quite appreciate just how unique his process was until she was

there. And it was a refreshing change of pace from a massive blockbuster like "The Batman."

"It's a whole experience," she said. "Obviously the result is so amazing. But the opportunity to actually see the way this happens is a trip. The Steven Soderbergh experience is a trip...."

"'Batman' is such a big film, and Matt (Reeves) is such a wonderfully tedious director — we do so many takes.

"It was cool to pivot to a very different style of film-making."

Soderbergh appreciated Kravitz's commitment to really behaving like someone who is alone. She contributed ideas that they ended up using about having bad hair dye, since, she knew, a lot of people stuck at home were experimenting.

"She has this fearless-

ness," he said. "She isn't protecting anything, and that's rare."

Though they filmed "Kimi" about 10 months ago, it feels current in the way it deals with the pandemic, where some people have moved on and some are still masking. He had spoken to his "Contagion peeps," who predicted a hybrid world.

Soderbergh often finds himself in the position of predicting what the future will look like, especially for his own business.

For one, he's good at it. But perhaps most importantly is he isn't just talk either, and he'll take risks on new formats. "Kimi" is his third movie debuting on HBO Max in the past two years.

"My current home is where the people who like mid-level movies for grown-ups are hanging out," he said. "It makes sense for 'Kimi' to go where the audience for 'Kimi' is looking at things."

It is, he thinks, a great time to be somebody who makes things.

But, at the same time, he sees that the uncertainty in the industry is "absolutely unprecedented."

"People are overwhelmed and overworked," he said. "I think it's really difficult to be a company trying to figure out what the five-year plan should look like. Here's what solves all your problems: Making some good stuff. That solves everything. I've always encouraged anybody that I talked to at Warner to adopt the curation approach. It's better to make fewer really good things, then a lot of things that are OK. You've got to define yourself as a place to go to see something good. Whether or not I'm right, that, I believe, is how you separate yourself from other platforms."

CELEBRITIES

HBO to spotlight David's life, career

From news services

"The Larry David Story" — a two-part project about the life and career of "Seinfeld" co-creator and "Curb Your Enthusiasm" star Larry David — will premiere March 1 on HBO and its streaming service HBO Max, the network announced Wednesday.

HBO will air both installments of the documentary back-to-back.

HBO says the documentary covers personal and professional aspects of David's life, and "shines a new light on the infamous cynic who remains a singular voice in comedy today."

David, 74, famously teamed up with Jerry Seinfeld to create "Seinfeld," which aired for nine seasons from 1989 to 1998 and won 10 Emmys.

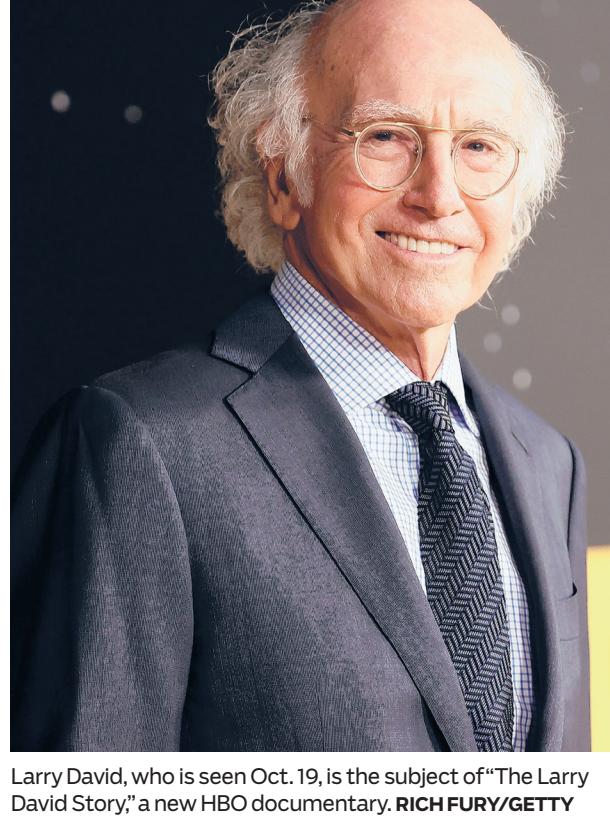
He stars as a fictionalized version of himself on HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm," which completed its 11th season last year.

Rodgers, Woodley reportedly call it quits: Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers and actress Shailene Woodley have reportedly called off their engagement. Quoting an "insider," celebrity site In Touch reports that Rodgers "put football first" and neither he nor Woodley were happy. That publication also said Rodgers, 38, got cold feet as his wedding day with the 30-year-old actor approached. The pair announced their engagement one year ago.

'Marvelous Mrs. Maisel' to end after season five: "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" will end after season five, Amazon Prime Video said Thursday. Rachel Brosnahan plays the title role of Miriam "Midge" Maisel, an aspiring comedian in New York City. The fourth season begins Friday.

"The Marvelous Mrs.

Maisel," created by Amy Sherman-Palladino, has



Larry David, who is seen Oct. 19, is the subject of "The Larry David Story," a new HBO documentary. **RICH FURY/GETTY**

won 20 Emmys, including best comedy series and best comedy actress for Brosnahan.

'Alcaras' wins Berlin's Golden Bear: The Catalan family drama "Alcaras" won the Golden Bear award for best movie at the Berlin International Film Festival on Wednesday.

Director Carla Simon's film was picked from a field of 18 by a seven-member jury under American filmmaker M. Night Shyamalan.

He said the movie was honored "for its extraordinary performances, from the child actors to the actors in their 80s, for the ability to show the tenderness and comedy of family and struggle, and for the betrayal of our connection and dependence on the land around us."

The film depicts a family that spends its summers picking peaches in an orchard in a village in

Spain's Catalonia region, but faces new owners who plan to replace the peach trees with solar panels.

Meltem Kaptan took the best leading performance honor for the title role in German director Andreas Dresen's "Rabiye Kurnaz vs. Georg W. Bush."

French director Claire Denis was chosen as best director for her new film "Both Sides of the Blade," starring Juliette Binoche. The grand jury prize went to the Korean movie "The Novelist's Film," directed by Hong Sangsoo.

Feb. 18 birthdays: Vocalist Yoko Ono is 89. Singer Herman Santiago is 81. Singer Irma Thomas is 81. Singer Dennis DeYoung is 75. Actor Cybill Shepherd is 72. Actor John Travolta is 68. TV personality Vanna White is 65. Actor Matt Dillon is 58. Rapper Dr. Dre is 57. Actor Molly Ringwald is 54. Actor Sarah Sutherland is 34.

ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Mother of the bride gets stung by RSVPs

Dear Amy: My daughter is getting married in two weeks. My brother and his family are not coming to the wedding, citing COVID-19 as their excuse.

They are all vaccinated and boosted. My brother is the bride's godfather.

I am very upset, as I attended all his children's weddings, even though it was very expensive for me to travel there, pay for a hotel, etc.

My best friend is also not coming. She has an 8-month-old grandson whom she is going to babysit for while allowing her daughter to attend the wedding.

She has another daughter who lives with her, and I question why this daughter cannot babysit so my friend can attend. I also traveled to her daughter's wedding — again at a significant expense.

I am feeling very hurt and do not know how to respond to these people.

I know the wedding will be wonderful and that I will have a great time, but my heart hurts that these people have not made more of an effort to attend.

Any advice?

— Upset

Dear Upset: A friend once told me, on the eve of my own wedding, that she was still upset about the handful of invited guests who hadn't come to her own wedding, over 10 years before. Yes, it hurts.

The pandemic has affected people's willingness to travel. I notice roughly two camps: People who are leaping onto planes, and those who are still reluctant to assume the risk to their health that they believe leaving their

own bubble could expose them to.

I'm not sure it's really fair to compare your willingness to travel, pre-pandemic, and your brother's reluctance to travel now.

In terms of these no-shows — one way we learn how important it is to show up for people is by not showing up and experiencing the regret, later.

Refuse to let these disappointments ruin your day.

Dear Amy: This year for Christmas I asked both of my children the rules for the gift exchange.

Both said that gifts would be given to the children in the family only. Adults would not exchange gifts.

Christmas dinner was at my son and daughter-in-law's house. I asked if I could bring anything for the meal and was told no it was going to be a simple meal. When I got there, it was a big spread.

After dinner, gifts were passed out to the children and then my children handed me gifts — but I had nothing for them.

I left shortly after that, because I was so hurt. The same thing happened last year. I have decided I will not do holidays with my children ever again.

Am I wrong?

— Fooled

Dear Fooled: You bring up a good point — that the holidays are fulfilled not only by receiving, but by giving.

But hold the phone while I offer up another interpretation.

Not knowing the specific dynamic of your family, I'm going to offer up a spin based on the dynamic I'm

most familiar with — the one in my own family.

You — the elder — have already given a lot. You've cooked and hosted holiday feasts; you've shopped for or made hundreds of gifts for your children and others.

Now your children believe that they are giving back to you by letting you off the hook. They don't want you to go to any trouble.

Unfortunately, they have completely misread the situation, because the effect on you is that you feel marginalized, left out and embarrassed.

They are not trying to fool or trick you. But they have definitely left you out, because they haven't recognized and celebrated your desire to contribute, and now you feel invisible.

You should be completely honest with them about the way this made you feel.

Dear Amy: Thank you for running the question from "Worried," regarding financial coercion by elder caregivers in her home.

In exposing this issue, you were advocating for good and responsible caregivers. We care very much about what we do. No caregiver should take advantage of an elder. It is a total violation of the trust they place in us, as well as our professional standards.

— Proud Caregiver

Dear Proud: Many professional eldercare providers have contacted me to echo your response.

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APPRECIATION IVAN REITMAN

Genial maestro of American movie comedy

By Justin Chang
Los Angeles Times

A few weeks ago, I found myself seeking out random YouTube clips from, of all things, "Kindergarten Cop." That 1990 action-comedy directed by Ivan Reitman, who died recently at age 75, is not what I'd call a personal favorite, though I couldn't deny (or, for that matter, explain) its oddly persistent hold on my memory.

If recollection serves, I was only 8 when I first saw Schwarzenegger yell "SHUUUUUT UUUUUUPPP!!!" at a class of unruly tots, an inauspicious start to possibly the least convincing undercover investigation in the history of the LAPD. Now, idly revisiting that and other scenes three decades later, I had questions: Was the movie as weird, incongruous and harrowing as I'd remembered? If they were making this now, how would they rework that startlingly intense shootout in a school lavatory? And of course: You're not so tough without your car, are ya?

That last punchline still works beautifully, even if the rest of the movie works only in fits and starts. Like Reitman's other hit efforts to mine the softer side of the former bodybuilder, including "Twins" (1988) and "Junior" (1994), "Kindergarten Cop" is something of a triumph of high concept over uneven execution. Or is it?

At their most memorable, Reitman's comedies all but erase the line between goofy slapdashery and polished craft. To look back at his movies — many of them more amiable than side-splitting — is to rifle through an assortment of hits and misses, a catalog of comic imperfection. That's no bad thing. Imperfection sometimes ages better, or at least more endearingly, than perfection.

Over the 16 or so features he directed over three decades (and the many



Ivan Reitman, who recently died at age 75, was a filmmaker and producer known for his comedies. MATT SAYLES/AP 2011

more he produced), Reitman warmly embraced imperfection as both an innate human right and an overarching comic principle. He urged his actors to riff and improvise, an especially shrewd instinct when those actors included ad-lib masters like Bill Murray, Harold Ramis, John Candy, Dan Aykroyd and John Goodman. His emphasis on collaboration and rejection of hubris came naturally, perhaps, to someone who'd arrived at directing via producing. As a director, Reitman was written off early and often by his critics — even the more appreciative ones — as more journeyman than auteur. He wore that reputation with ease, much as he embraced the second-class citizenship that comedy is too often accorded in drama-first

Hollywood. No wonder that his own comedies so often celebrated disruptive, anarchic impulses, particularly within cherished American traditions and institutions: a teen summer camp in "Meatballs" (1979), the U.S. military in "Stripes" (1981) and the White House in perhaps his finest accomplishment, "Dave" (1993). You could impute the sly antiestablishment streak in these movies to a number of things, including Reitman's outsider upbringing — he was born in Czechoslovakia to Hungarian Jewish parents, both Holocaust survivors, and moved to Canada when he was 4 — or his coming of age during the tumult and disillusionment of the '60s.

Or you could just chalk it up to the naturally irrever-

ent sensibilities of Reitman's actors, and how closely attuned he was to their every instinct. The early one-two combo of "Meatballs" and "Stripes" made a particular star out of Murray, the most sneakily deadpan of nose thumbs, though he could of course rise to uproarious full volume as well: "It just doesn't matter!" his camp counselor, Tripper, screams in the memorable motivational speech that gives "Meatballs" its climax. A lower-key version of that rallying cry seems to permeate so many of Reitman's comedies, with their sweetly goofy what-me-worry vibes. And those vibes achieved a blockbuster apotheosis with the smash success of "Ghostbusters" (1984), his biggest and most enduring hit, a movie whose

sweet-spot combo of slime and silliness continues to fuel Hollywood's nostalgia machine — most recently with last year's "Ghostbusters: Afterlife," in which he passed the director's baton to his filmmaker son, Jason.

No appraisal of Reitman's legacy would be complete without some acknowledgment of the "Ghostbusters" franchise's more dubious die-hards, who reared their heads during the rollout of 2016's female-led reboot. The vicious internet pile-on against that movie couldn't help but feel like a curdled byproduct of the '80s mainstream comedy ethos that Reitman and others helped establish.

Nonetheless, the ugliness of that particular "Ghostbusters" episode stands in glaring opposi-

tion to the gentle misfit spirit of Reitman's 1984 movie, to say nothing of the humility and generosity roundly attributed to him by his colleagues. One of the truisms of Hollywood longevity is that a filmmaker's greatest successes can become a mixed blessing, spawning toxic fan movements and inferior imitations, and sometimes boxing their creators into an unfor-giving mold.

At the very least, Reitman eluded the curse of the latter. His post-1984 career may not have seen as outsized a hit as "Ghost-busters," but neither can it be reduced to the output of a man repeating himself. Reitman continued producing, lending his name and time to movies as different as "Old School" and "Road Trip"; the Howard Stern comedy "Private Parts"; and Atom Egoyan's Toronto-set hoot of an erotic thriller "Chloe." He also earned his sole Oscar nomination, for best picture, as a producer on his son Jason's 2009 George Clooney dramedy "Up in the Air."

Reitman also directed several more movies, few of them masterpieces but all of them possessed of their distinctive pleasures, most of them performance-based. There was a rare rom-com lead turn from Natalie Portman in "No Strings Attached" (2011) and a perfectly cast Kevin Costner as an NFL general manager in "Draft Day" (2014). Best of all, there was "Dave," a Capra-esque charmer starring Kevin Kline and Sigourney Weaver, superbly matched as a presidential doppelganger and his first lady. As a political farce, "Dave" may seem even tamer and less outrageous than it did on its initial release; its mix of gentle sentimentality and warm reassurance feels out of step with our more cynical times. Which is precisely why, as with so much of Reitman's work, it's hard to resist revisiting.



Shay Mitchell, from left, Brenda Song, Kat Dennings and Esther Povitsky in "Dollface." HULU

Friends grapple with turning 30 in 2nd season of Hulu's 'Dollface'

By Kate Feldman
New York Daily News

Turning 30 brings about all kinds of personal and professional pressures, but "Dollface" is where those stereotypes go to die.

The Hulu comedy series, which recently returned for its second season, finds the four friends it centers on approaching that round number when society expects you to have it all figured out. Spoiler alert: They don't, but that's OK.

"We should have found our career, we should be on top, the Forbes 30 Under 30 list," said Shay Mitchell, who plays the self-assured Stella newly returned from business school.

"There can be a lot of pressure, but with these girls, they also realize toward the end that it's just about finding what you love and doing it," adds Mitchell, 35. "There's not a set time of when you need to be at this certain place or hit this certain goal. As life goes on, you realize who you are, and you become more and more who you're supposed to be."

For many, 30 is supposed to be things like marriage and children, a career, a membership to the local gym, and a retirement fund.

"All of that is an outdated idea of what a win is," showrunner Michelle Nader said of the series that also revolves around Jules (Kat Dennings), Madison (Brenda Song) and Izzy (Esther Povitsky).

"The wins are little moments where you get to be with your friends and you get to be really happy, but around the corner, it could be a real big disappointment."

Where the first season of "Dollface" saw Jules trying to rebuild the friendships in her life after a messy breakup, the second cares more about moving forward. Jules finds new power at work. Madison branches out on her own. Stella makes a big career move. Izzy figures out what exactly she wants, or at least tries to.

But the point of the show is that they do it together.

Series creator Jordan Weiss said she wanted the characters' problems to be normal, like bad bosses or bad boyfriends.

Mitchell says that playing a character who's a work in progress is fun, but also more real. She wants these women to screw up, because the growth comes from fixing it.

"We portray our

mistakes," she said. "We're learning as we go, which is basically what we do as humans as well."

The four best friends of "Dollface" found their way back to each other in the first season, and that's part of the journey. Their jobs are getting better. That's part of it, too. They're steps on the path, but there's no end point.

"It's been a process of looking back at my early 20s and seeing a real sense of impermanence with me and my friends," said Weiss, who's approaching her own 30th birthday. "We had each other, but jobs come and go, boyfriends and girlfriends come and go, hangovers came and went easier than they do now."

"Now, (I'm) at a point where it's like, 'OK, let's invest time and energy into the relationships we want to bring forward.' Things are going to last more. Things are going to count more. People that we're dating are becoming life partners. Jobs are becoming careers," Weiss added.

"I wanted to frame the season in a way that allowed these four characters to check in with themselves about that and see what they really want moving forward."

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19):

Introspection is encouraged. Work out what's dragging you down. Does a part of your routine need to change? You probably don't need to turn your life upside down, and you might not want to change much at all.

Taurus (April 20-May 20):

Liven things up right now. Feeling excitement isn't enough — you need to actually get out there. If your life doesn't excite you, there's little to stop you from changing it. A simple thing could make all the difference. Being open to other people is also likely to come naturally. Don't be discouraged.

Gemini (May 21-June 20):

It's a great time to let everyone see what you're really capable of — the last thing you want to be is complacent. Fortunately, no reason why that should happen if you're careful. Authority figures might have their eyes on you, so think twice before acting. Let your heart guide you.

Cancer (June 21-July 22):

Make a leap of faith. You want more from life. It's up to you to broaden your experience. The process might be as simple as booking an online course or asking a peer to teach you a skill you've always admired. Sort out any everyday matters that require your attention.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):

Gain more control over your life. You have been letting things just happen to you rather than making a decision about what you want. You've been doing yourself a disservice by ignoring your talents. Realizing what your bad habits are is the first step toward changing much at all.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):

You can understand yourself better if you have someone to bounce ideas off at this time. It's OK to need support from others. Flying solo isn't impossible, but you'll have better luck working as a team, unless others involved are trying to push you into doing things their way. If that happens, step back.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):

Be helpful today. That doesn't mean you need to be at anyone's beck and call, and you may have to guard against people taking advantage of you. Focus on the details. Some people get caught up with the big picture, and you can help by pointing out anything they've missed.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):

Today is about having fun. You need to blow off some steam. Put off some non-urgent chores in order to get out and play. Find time for your old hobbies. That said, you may need to be careful not to overdo things. Too many late nights might put a damper on future fun.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):

Your focus is pulled toward your home today. A tiny change like adding a few scented candles can brighten your day. It can be extremely easy to neglect your living space. A bit of time spent sprucing things up will help provide you with a more comfortable haven to retreat to later.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):

You have your fingers in all sorts of pies. Buzzing around chatting to people and running errands can eat up your time. The trick is to find a balance. You have a say in the things that keep you busy. You have to be firm in saying no occasionally, but explain your reasoning in a way that others understand.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):

You deserve pampering. Buy a little treat — but keep your budget in mind. Indulgences might stretch your finances beyond what they can handle. There are ways of giving yourself some self-care without breaking the bank. It will be worth it when you can have fun and save money.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):

This is the perfect time to change your image. Looking better can help you feel better about yourself. Maybe you've based your past style on what other people think looks good. You'll be best served and find joy by making your own decisions about your appearance.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Feb. 18, 1564, artist Michelangelo died in Rome.

In 1885, Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" was published in the U.S. for the first time.

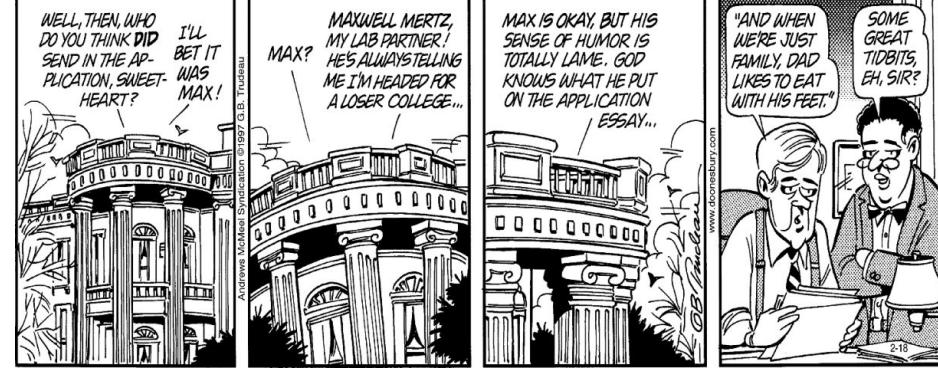
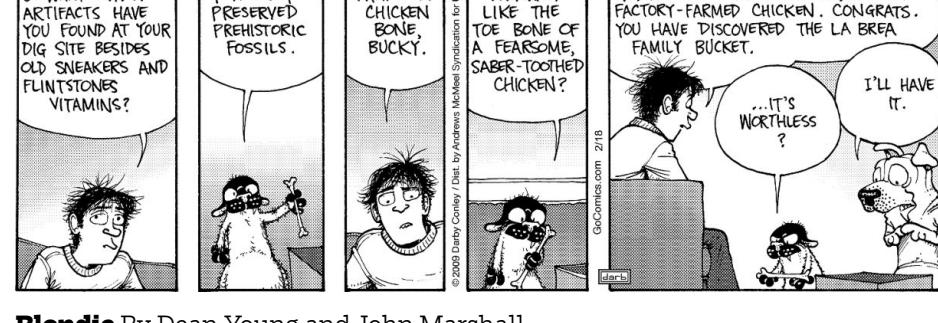
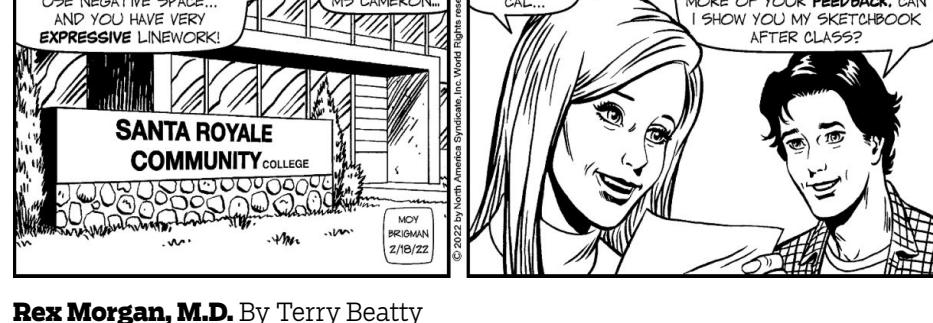
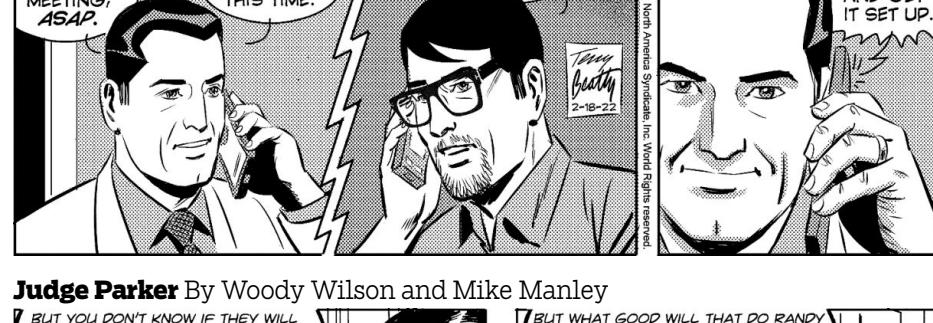
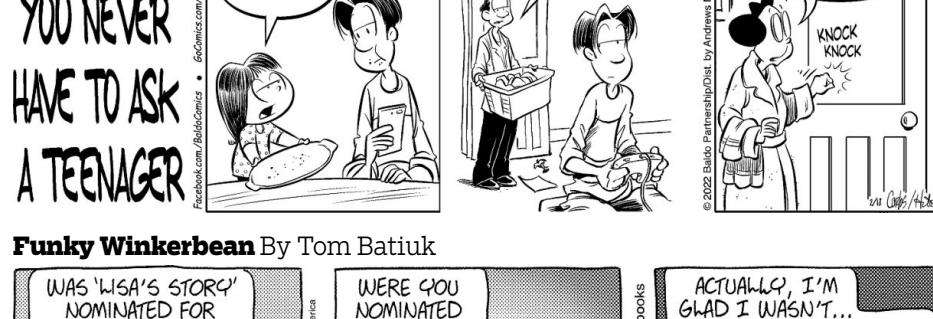
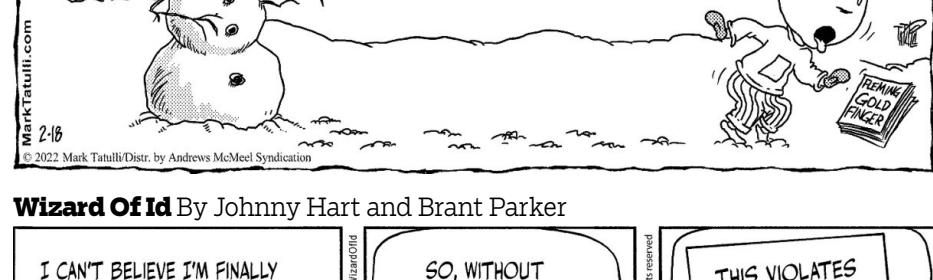
In 1970, the "Chicago Seven" defendants were found not guilty of conspiring to incite riots at the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

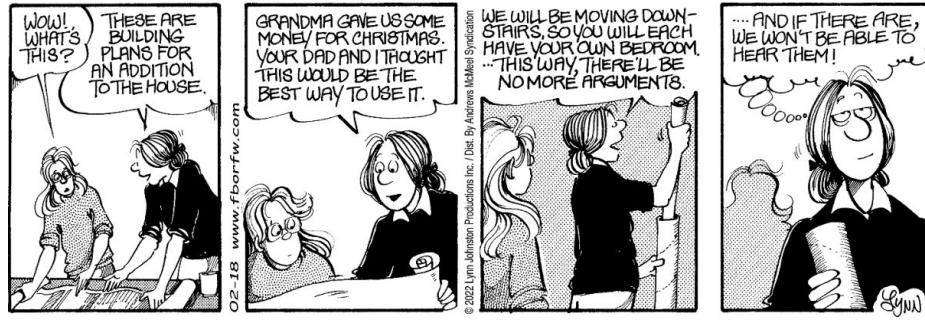
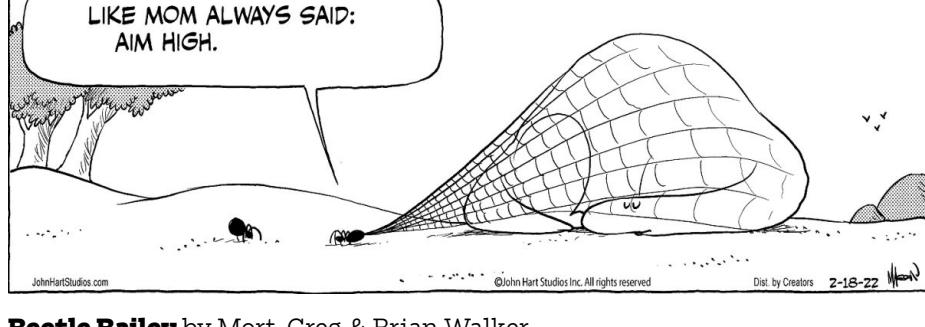
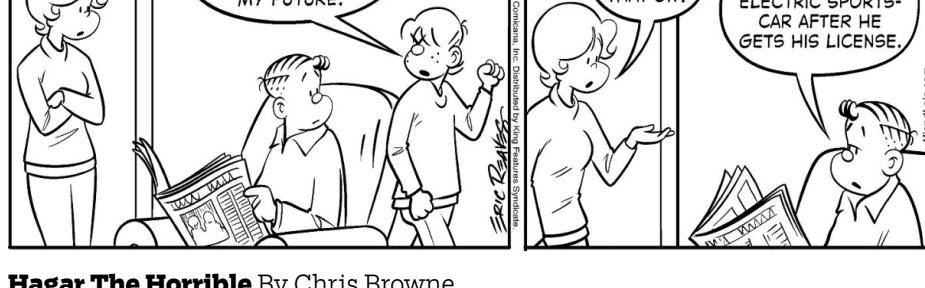
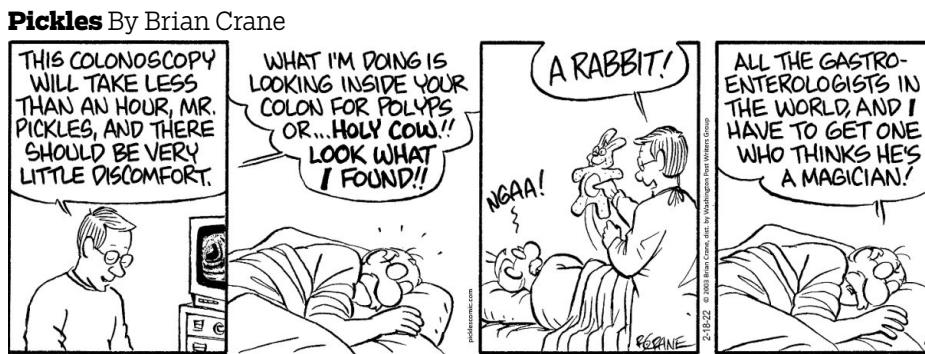
In 1988, Anthony M. Kennedy was sworn in as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2001, auto racing star Dale Earnhardt Sr. died in a crash at the Daytona 500.

In 2016, in what was seen as a criticism of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, Pope Francis said that a person who advocated building walls was "not Christian."

In 2020, President Donald Trump commuted the 14-year prison sentence of former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich for political corruption; Blagojevich left prison hours later.

Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz**Classic Doonesbury** By Garry Trudeau**Garfield** By Jim Davis**Shoe** By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly**Dustin** By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker**Pearls Before Swine** By Stephan Pastis**Mutts** By Patrick McDonnell**Arctic Circle** By Alex Hallatt**Jump Start** By Robb Armstrong**Get Fuzzy** By Darby Conley**Blondie** By Dean Young and John Marshall**Dilbert** By Scott Adams**Gil Thorp** By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin**Mary Worth** By Karen Moy and June Brigman**Rex Morgan, M.D.** By Terry Beatty**Judge Parker** By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley**Baldo** By Cantu and Castellanos**Funky Winkerbean** By Tom Batiuk**Lio** By Mark Tatulli**Wizard Of Id** By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker**Rhymes With Orange** By Hilary Price**Monty** By Jim Meddick

For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston**B.C.** By Hart**Beetle Bailey** by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker**Hi & Lois** By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne**Hagar The Horrible** By Chris Browne**Non Sequitur** By Wiley Miller**Curtis** By Ray Billingsley**Pickles** By Brian Crane**Zits** By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman**Rose Is Rose** By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer**Mother Goose And Grimm** By Mike Peters**CROSSWORD**

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

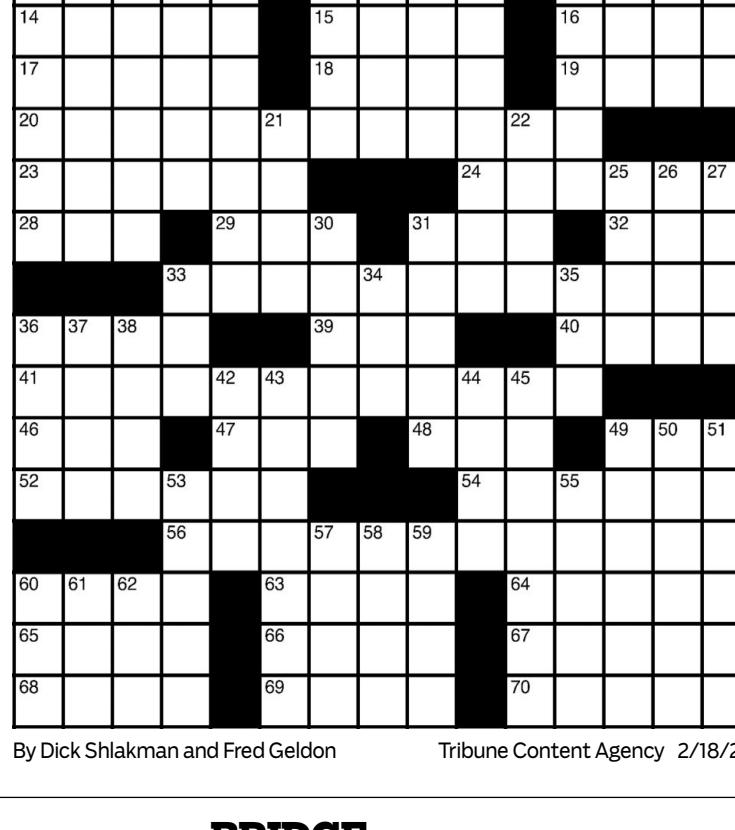
1 Ketch pair
6 Pre-weekend letters
10 Damson or Mirabelle
14 On the lookout
15 Decimated sea
16 "All __"
17 "It's the truth!"
18 Old comics character who said, "We have met the enemy and he is us."
19 Apple product
20 Naivete personified, literally
23 It's needed, but often "not included"
24 Many a Nora Ephron film
28 Old speedster: Abbr.
29 Ice cream holder
31 Bother
32 Co-founder of Artists Against Fracking
33 Abandoned, literally
36 Angry
39 Doce meses
40 Equal
41 Low, literally
46 Medium power
47 Give a hand
48 Tennis strategy
49 Rte. finder
52 Presumes
54 Feature of some Birkenstocks
56 Metaphor for a sitting-pretty situation, literally
60 Modern diary
63 Like father, like son?
64 Accord creator

65 Bridges of Los Angeles County
66 Fourth letter in a famous mnemonic
67 Like Barbara Bush, vis-à-vis Jenna
68 Lincoln or Jackson
69 Twice-monthly tide
70 Works in a garden

8 Classic stage betrayer
9 Request for maximum speed
10 Light bender
11 Sass
12 Gulf War support gp.
13 Pill, say
21 Word with collar or chip
22 American Girl purchase
25 Abs are part of it
26 Some time ago
27 Comic Jay
30 Lacking pizzazz
31 On the wrong side (of)
33 Rocker Nugent
34 One who may go deep
35 Good times
36 Aerobic bit
37 Quite
38 Gym set

Down

1 Rays that can live 50 years
2 Island exchanges
3 Handpicked
4 "Survivor" group
5 Cat burglar's asset
6 It's broken at many races
7 Become
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By Dick Shlakman and Fred Geldorf

Tribune Content Agency 2/18/22

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

Bidding quiz

You are declarer with the West hand at Four Hearts, and North leads the queen of diamonds. How would you play the hand? (With proper play, the contract can be made against virtually any distribution, but it is not easy to find the solution.)

WEST	EAST
[S] A Q 6 3	[S] 5 4 2
[H] K J 6 4 2	[H] A Q 10 7 5
[D] 7	[D] A 4
[C] A Q 6	[C] 4 3 2

Win the diamond queen with the ace, ruff a diamond, cash the A-K of trump and ace of spades, lead a low trump to dummy's ten and play a spade toward your Q-6-3.

1. If South shows out, play low, forcing North to hand you the contract whether he returns a spade, a diamond or a club.

2. If South produces the king of spades when you lead the spade from dummy, 10 tricks are assured, and, in fact, you have a chance for one or two overtricks.

3. If South produces a spade lower than the king, play the queen. If the queen wins, your mission is accomplished. But even if the queen loses to North's king, he cannot stop you from making the contract because:

a) If North started with the doubleton king of spades, he must return a diamond or a club, either of which hands you the contract.

b) If North started with three spades to the king, a spade return establishes your fourth spade as a trick, while a diamond or club return also gives you your 10th trick.

c) If North started with four spades headed by the king, he can do no better

than take your queen with the king, cash another spade and continue with his last spade.

But instead of ruffing this spade in dummy, which you might feel tempted to do, you discard one of dummy's clubs!

This leaves North in an untenable position. He must either return a diamond, allowing you to discard another club from dummy as you ruff in your hand, or else lead a club into your A-Q. Either way, you are certain to make the contract. Your only losers in this variation would be three spade tricks.

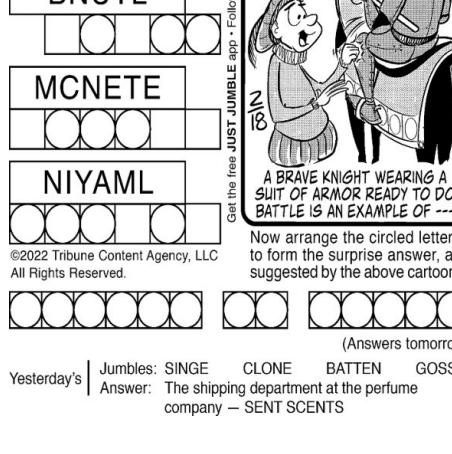
It's hard to visualize at the very start that making four hearts is certain regardless of how the North-South cards are divided. But the fact is that you can't miss if you adopt the right line of play.

Tomorrow: Swapping horses in midstream.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

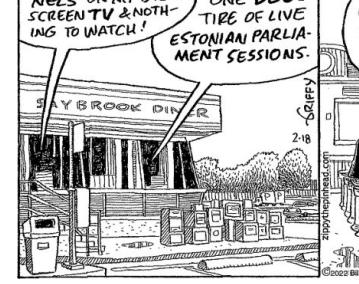
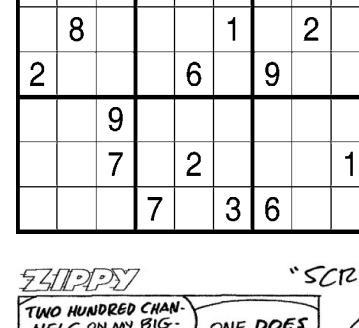
Get the free **JUMBLE** app. Follow us on Twitter @BigJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SINGE CLOWNE BATTEN GOSSIP

Answer: The shipping department at the perfume company — SENT SCENTS

TODAY'S SUDOKU

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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Yesterday's Jumbles: SINGE CLOWNE BATTEN GOSSIP

Answer: The shipping department at the perfume company — SENT SCENTS

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I asked what kind of family Amina wanted. She said, 'A family like yours.' That's when I knew I had to adopt her.

Denise, adopted 17-year-old Amina



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Hartford Courant

SPORTS

COURANT.COM/SPORTS



UConn's R.J. Cole and Tyrese Martin (4) embrace during the second half against Seton Hall on Wednesday in Storrs. JESSICA HILL/AP

UCONN MEN'S BASKETBALL

Huskies tough to beat when Big 3 are on

Sanogo, Martin and Cole keeping team in the Big East hunt

By Shreyas Laddha
Hartford Courant

Late in Wednesday's 70-65 win over Seton Hall, Tyrese Martin ran up to R.J. Cole, wrapped his arms around Cole's waist and hoisted the guard up in the air in celebration. Martin then dropped him with such force Cole felt like his ankles were shattering.

Cole had just hit a layup that put the UConn men's basketball team up 53-44 with 8:35 to play. After the layup, Adama Sanogo jumped off the bench with a pep in his step. All season long coach Dan Hurley has praised how much the team roots for each other and it starts with these three players.

As the Huskies, winners of three of four, improved to 18-7 overall and 9-5 in the Big East, once again they were led by Cole, Martin and Sanogo, who combined for 52 of UConn's 70 points. Together they shot 21-for-42 (50%) from the field

and brought in 29 rebounds.

With the departure of leading scorer James Bouknight to the NBA from last season's team, UConn has relied on these three to step up and fill the void. Cole leads the team with 16.2 points per game, followed by Sanogo (15.1) and Martin (14.0).

The Huskies are the only high major team in Division I with three players averaging 14 or more points per game. UConn is 9-3 in Big East games when at least two of the three score double-digit points.

After the Huskies struggled to

Up next

 Xavier at UConn
Noon Sat., FOX

take control of the game in the first half against the Pirates, they came out with a different energy in the second led by the trio. Sanogo was dominant in the post on offense and deterred players from the rim on the defensive end. Meanwhile

Turn to Huskies, Page 4

WINTER OLYMPICS COMMENTARY



Kamila Valieva reacts after falling during the women's free skate at the Winter Olympics on Thursday in Beijing. CATHERINE IVILL/GETTY

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

'She's just somebody you want out on the floor, period'

Guard Mühl proving indispensable as the Huskies push toward tournament time

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

Sunday against Marquette, Nika Mühl was scoreless on 0-for-3 shooting in the UConn women's basketball team's 72-58 win over the Golden Eagles.

And yet coach Geno Auriemma still thought it was one of the best games the sophomore from Croatia had played all year.

She finished with six rebounds, a team-high six assists, one steal and just one turnover, and that's just what appeared in the box score. Auriemma is always one to push his players to impact the game in different ways, especially beyond scoring, and there's no one who embodies that idea more than Mühl, who as of late has been playing some of her best basketball when the Huskies have needed it most.

Mühl and the rest of the Huskies are back in action when they take on Xavier (8-16, 3-12) in Cincinnati Friday evening.

Mühl's season started on the rockier side as she struggled to settle in early on, barely seeing time in two of UConn's games in the Bahamas. She was then shut down most of December with a lingering foot issue, missing three games in all before returning when the Huskies got back from an extended layoff due to COVID-19 issues.

Since first arriving on campus Mühl has always been someone who, in Auriemma's words, is a

Turn to UConn, Page 4

Up next

 UConn at Xavier
7 p.m., SNY

Unceremonious end

Kamila Valieva's fourth-place finish averted a very awkward situation for several parties

By John Powers

Boston Globe

It was beyond painful to watch, a 15-year-old girl falling apart in front of the world. What made it worse is that much of that world was rooting against her and was relieved when she imploded.

Had Russian figure skater Kamila Valieva won the Olympic gold medal, she would have created a nightmare for the International Olympic Committee, the International Skating Union, the World Anti-Doping Agency, and her own federation.

There never has been a women's skating champion found to have doped. Had Valieva even earned a medal, everything would

have been put on hold for weeks, if not months, until her case was resolved.

The IOC made that clear even before Thursday's free skate. If Valieva were to make the podium, "There will be an asterisk against the results because they will be preliminary pending further investigation," said spokesman Mark Adams.

For the first time in Olympic history, there would have been no immediate medal ceremony, no flowers, no flags, no anthem. The IOC would not risk awarding a medal to someone who might later have it taken away.

So when Valieva staggered

Turn to Olympics, Page 2

WINTER OLYMPICS AT A GLANCE

A look at top results and news from the Beijing Games.

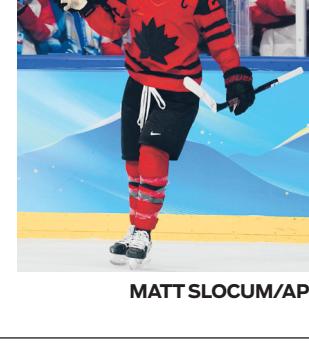
MEDAL LEADERS (as of 10 p.m. ET Thursday)

Country	G	S	B	Tot
Norway	14	7	8	29
Russian Olympic Committee	5	9	12	26
Germany	10	7	5	22
United States	8	8	5	21
Canada	4	5	11	20

HIGHLIGHTS

- Captain Marie-Philip Poulin, right, scored twice to lead Canada to a 3-2 victory over the U.S. in the women's hockey gold-medal game.
- Anna Shcherbakova of Russia won the women's figure skating competition. Teammate Kamila Valieva finished fourth.
- Japan's Miho Takagi won the women's 1,000 meters for her fourth speedskating medal in Beijing and the first individual gold of her career.

More coverage, Page 5



MATT SLOCUM/AP

BASEBALL

Threat to MLB openers increases, as talks end after 15 minutes

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The threat to opening day on March 31 appeared to intensify Thursday when the drawn-out talks to end Major League Baseball's lockout ended just 15 minutes after they

had resumed following a four-day break.

What was supposed to be the second day of spring training workouts instead was the 78th day of the second-longest work stoppage in baseball history. After just the sixth meeting on core economics since

the lockout began on Dec. 2, the sides had differing interpretations of the brevity: The union didn't read much into the short session, and management attributed the lack of length to having nothing to talk about.

While there is a session sched-

uled for Friday on non-core issues, there is no set date for the resumption of the main talks. The sides have about two weeks left to reach a deal that would allow sufficient spring training ahead of an on-time opening.

"I just hope something gets

resolved quickly," Yankees infielder DJ LeMahieu said before the meeting, just after working out with teammate Aaron Judge at a college field in Tampa, Florida. "Baseball becomes a business —

Turn to Baseball, Page 2

Did you know?

More people are injured after winter storms than during those storms.

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SPORTS**UP NEXT**

UConn MBB: Xavier (Gampel), Saturday, noon; Villanova (XL), Tuesday, 8 p.m.; Georgetown, Feb. 27, noon

UConn WBB: at Xavier, Friday, 7 p.m.; Georgetown (XL), Sunday, 2 p.m.; Marquette (XL), Wednesday, 7 p.m.

Celtics: at Nets, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; at Pistons, Feb. 26, noon; at Pacers, Feb. 27, 5 p.m.

Knicks: Heat, Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m.; 76ers, Feb. 27, 1 p.m.; at 76ers, March 2, 7:30 p.m.

Nets: Celtics, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.; at Bucks, Feb. 26, 8:30 p.m.;

Raptors, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.

UConn hockey: UMass, Friday, 7 p.m.; at UMass, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; at Northeastern, Feb. 25, 7 p.m.

Bruins: at Senators, Saturday, 7 p.m.; Avalanche, Monday, 1 p.m.; at Kraken, Thursday, 10 p.m.

Rangers: at Senators, Sunday, 5 p.m.; Capitals, Thursday, 7 p.m.; at Canucks, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m.

Wolf Pack: Providence, Saturday, 7 p.m.; at Bridgeport, Sunday, 3 p.m.; at Springfield, Feb. 25, 7 p.m.

TV/RADIO**AUTO RACING**

3 p.m.: NASCAR Camping World Truck Series NextEra Energy 250, Qualifying, (Live) FS1

4:30 p.m.: NASCAR Xfinity Racing Series Beef. It's What's For Dinner. 300, Practice, (Live) FS1

5:30 p.m.: NASCAR Cup Series Daytona 500, Practice, (Live) FS1

7:30 p.m.: NASCAR Camping World Truck Series NextEra Energy 250, (Live) FS1

10 p.m.: NHRA Drag Racing Lucas Oil NHRA Winternationals, Qualifying 1, (Live) FS1

BASKETBALL

5 p.m.: Butler at St. John's, (Live) CBSSN

7 p.m.: Women's College: UConn at Xavier, (Live), SNY

7 p.m.: 2022 NBA All-Star Celebrity Game (Live) ESPN

7 p.m.: Richmond at VCU, (Live) ESPN2

7 p.m.: Saint Peter's at Fairfield, (Live) ESPNU

9 p.m.: Wright State at Oakland, (Live) ESPN2

9 p.m.: 2022 NBA Rising Stars (Live) TNT

11:30 p.m.: Athletes Unlimited Basketball Team Hawkins (Gold) vs. Team Cloud (Blue), (Live) CBSSN

BOXING

9 p.m.: ShoBox: The New Generation, (Live) SHO

GOLF

12 p.m.: Chubb Classic, First Round, (Live) GOLF

4 p.m.: The Genesis Invitational, Second Round, (Live) GOLF

HOCKEY

9 p.m.: North Dakota at Minnesota-Duluth, (Live) CBSSN

10 p.m.: Kings at Golden Knights, (Live) SPRTNET

OLYMPICS

8:45 a.m.: Men's Hockey, Second Semifinal: Teams TBA, (Live) USA

10:30 a.m.: Bobsled, (Same-day Tape) USA

2 p.m.: Biathlon, Speed Skating, Hockey, (Same-day Tape) NBC

2 p.m.: Women's Curling, First Semifinal: Teams TBA, (Same-day Tape) USA

5 p.m.: Women's Curling, First Semifinal, (Same-day Tape) CNBC

5 p.m.: Hockey Game of the Day, (Same-day Tape) USA

7 p.m.: Biathlon, (Same-day Tape) USA

8 p.m.: Bobsled, Figure Skating, Freestyle Skiing, (Live) NBC

8 p.m.: Women's Curling, Second Semifinal, (Same-day Tape) CNBC

8:30 p.m.: Freestyle Skiing, (Live) USA

10 p.m.: Alpine Skiing, (Live) USA

11:30 p.m.: Bobsled, Alpine Skiing, (Same-day Tape) NBC

1 a.m.: Cross-Country Skiing, (Live) USA

4 a.m.: Biathlon, (Live) USA

SOCCER

2:45 p.m.: Italian Serie A Soccer Juventus vs Torino, (Live) CBSSN

5:20 p.m.: CONCACAF Champions League

Soccer Cavalry AS vs New England Revolution, (Live) FSP

BRUINS

Bergeron set to make return

By Steve Conroy

Boston Herald

BOSTON — Help is on the way for the Bruins, and not a moment too soon.

Patrice Bergeron, out since suffering a laceration on his head in a game against Pittsburgh, practiced with the team on Wednesday at Chelsea Piers in Manhattan and appears ready to make his return on Thursday against the New York Islanders.

Fortunately for Bergeron, who has a well-documented history of concussions, the extent of his injury was the cut and the swelling that went along with it.

"I felt good, it's just that you obviously want to take the time. When you hit your head, you always ask yourself many questions. I've been through it before," Bergeron told reporters after practice. "Everything felt fine. It was more of a matter of taking the time with the cut. I think the team and the trainers as well wanted to make sure everything was back to

normal before I headed back on the ice for games."

On the play in question, Bergeron got his feet tangled up with Sidney Crosby's. He was knocked off balance and the side of his head took the brunt of the impact with the boards.

"To be honest, I knew I was close (to the boards) but I didn't think I was that close," said Bergeron. "I thought I was a little more in the middle (of the ice). It is a bad spot to fall that close to the boards."

While he did not suffer a concussion, he conceded that such a blow to the head gave him pause. He nearly had his career ended on a hit from behind in 2007 and has had several other concussions since then.

"Of course you think about that, but it wasn't one of those where I needed to really think about it," said Bergeron. "But it's always something where you want to make sure as an athlete, you do the right things on the ice and play as hard as you can, but also you think about your future and be smart that way."



Knicks center Taj Gibson talks with head coach Tom Thibodeau during a game against the Warriors on Feb. 10 in San Francisco. **JEFF CHIU/AP**

KNICKS

Uncertainty reigns

With coach Tom Thibodeau twisting in the wind, Leon Rose must emerge from hiding

By Stefan Bondy

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — We're assuming Leon Rose has watched his concoction burn. We're assuming he understands the gravitas of a full-blown collapse, the fall from the sparkling excitement of NYC to a mess for the sanitation department, a place this franchise has too often occupied.

We have to assume these things, rather than know, because Leon Rose doesn't talk. We have to assume, but not guarantee, because Leon Rose has done nothing about it.

Tom Thibodeau, the embattled reigning Coach of the Year, has tried to explain in the last few days, without great success, why the Knicks can recover their mojo. It was once believable based on last season's resurgence and Thibodeau's reputation.

But now the coach is twisting in the wind, left on an island of uncertainty that destroys Thibodeau's credibility whether in a huddle or a press conference. Top executive William Wesley, who has James Dolan's ear, has been privately blaming Thibodeau for the failures and the lack of opportunities for the younger players, sources confirmed. SNY reported Thursday that "prominent people at MSG" lost confidence in Thibodeau, picking up the Knicks tradition of internal strife that often gains momentum around the All-Star break.

As a condition to Thibodeau's hiring in 2020, the front office forced assistant

coaches Johnnie Bryant and Kenny Payne onto the staff, according to sources. That now provides a tidy transition in case of a midseason coaching change.

Yet, we have no clarity on where anything is headed. Rose stood pat at the trade deadline, a move that neither reinforced a push to the 2022 playoffs nor symbolized a rebuild. In other words, there's no clear direction for a team sitting 12th in the East with a brutal schedule after the All-Star break.

Perhaps not coincidentally, Thibodeau was speaking in circles after his team's latest embarrassment Wednesday, a collapse to the shorthanded Nets with Dolan watching from his baseline seat.

At one point, Thibodeau said he won't gift playing time to those who don't deserve it, emphasizing his desire to win. It fed into his philosophy of pushing for the playoffs with veterans on the court.

But then, Thibodeau switched gears and said "development" is now the "focus," referencing his younger players like Obi Toppin, Quentin Grimes and Immanuel Quickley.

Confusion reigned once again. Confidence waned. A coach sat in flux.

Meanwhile, Rose has distanced himself from this mess by never uttering a public word. He hasn't spoken to the media since September, and that was after a year-plus hiatus. As ESPN pundit Stephen A. Smith described Wednesday night, "We got inmates in state penitentiaries more visible than this man."

As a condition to Thibodeau's hiring in 2020, the front office forced assistant

Baseball

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it's not as fun, but it's something that definitely needs to happen."

At this point, MLB has not even acknowledged publicly that exhibition openers won't come off as scheduled on Feb. 26. The union told MLB it was prepared to meet every day next week.

There was no discussion of key issues such as luxury tax thresholds and rates, the minimum salary, the union's proposal to decrease revenue sharing and the players' allegations of service time manipulation. The sides remain far apart in all those areas and also differ on the post-season: Owners want to expand the playoffs from 10 teams to 14, while players are offering 12.

Still, the union's change in arbitration moved the sides closer in structure for when they actually start intensive negotiations. Without the imminent threat of losses caused by missing regular-season games, both sides appear hesitant to reveal bottom-line positions.

Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem, Executive Vice President Morgan

Sword and Senior Vice President Patrick Houlahan made the five-minute walk from MLB's West Midtown office to the players' association's East Midtown workplace on an unusually warm winter afternoon.

Sword and Houlahan left shortly after they arrived, and Halem remained for a 20-minute, one-on-one meeting with Bruce Meyer, the union's chief negotiator. That talk was described as unusually candid.

Negotiators on both sides planned to discuss the state of the talks with their constituencies.

The union dropped its request to lower salary arbitration eligibility to two years of major league service, its level from 1974-86. Instead, players proposed the so-called super-two group be expanded to the top 80% by service time among those with at least two years but less than three from 22%, its level since 2013.

Both sides would keep the provision that 86 days of service in the most recent season are required. MLB estimates the union plan would make 97 additional players eligible for arbitration this year.

YANKEES

By Matthew Roberson

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Aaron Judge is very aware of the fact that this upcoming season could be his last with the Yankees.

While discussing this possibility with CC Sabathia and Ryan Ruocco on the "R2C2 podcast," Judge was even willing to acknowledge the idea of playing somewhere else.

"Whatever happens, if we get an extension done at some point before the season starts, that'd be great," Judge said. "I'd be completely honored to wear pinstripes a couple more years. But if it doesn't happen and this is my last year, I had a lot of great memories. And it doesn't matter if it's my last year or first year, I'm going to go out there and play my best and do what I need to do for the city and do what I need to do for the team."

The 2022 season is Judge's final year under contract with the Yankees. As a player in his final year of arbitration, Judge has yet to reap the benefits of a big-money contract that his

Olympics

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through the worst performance of her career and finished fourth Thursday, everything was blue skies and sunshine atop Olympics.

There was a flower ceremony to honor Russia's Anna Shcherbakova and Alexandra Trusova and Japan's Kaori Sakamoto, and they'll be given their gold, silver, and bronze medals Friday. And Valieva, who'd been in the lead after the short program, became a sideshow.

That said, the uncertainty is far from over. The medals for the team event, which concluded Feb. 7, still haven't been awarded because Valieva skated twice for the Russians, who won gold. Those results will be determined by the doping lab.

Her December test indicated that Valieva had taken trimetazidine, a banned heart drug, at her national championships. If her backup sample also comes up positive, which is considered highly likely, the Russians could be stripped of their team medal and Valieva would face a suspension and the loss of all of her results since, including her European crown.

The team gold means a great deal to the Russian federation because it stands for overall primacy in the sport. If their team were to be disqualified, the Americans, who took silver, would be upgraded to gold. As a consolation for making the US skaters wait for their medals, IOC president Thomas Bach offered them Olympic torches.

Were they to be deprived of the team title, the Russians almost certainly would appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. As a minor, Valieva is considered a "protected person" under the WADA code, which is unclear about what the sanction would be for a doping violation.

Since Valieva might well get off without penalty, the Russians would have an incentive to protest a suspension to CAS and probably would.

"They won't admit anything," said Dick Pound, the IOC's longest-serving member and the WADA's first president. "They appeal every single decision."

That said, the Russians might want to let this one go should Valieva be deemed positive. Under the WADA code, if minors are caught doping, the focus falls on their support personnel since it is presumed that underage athletes wouldn't knowingly use banned drugs.

In Valieva's case, there was not just one drug in her system but three, including Hypoxen and L-carnitine. The latter

"They won't admit anything. They appeal every single decision."

— Dick Pound, IOC member, on Russia

two aren't forbidden but they are thought by some to help blood flow and increase endurance. That "trifecta" of substances," said USADA chief Travis Tygart, "clearly suggest something far more nefarious than just an innocent contamination."

As part of Valieva's case, investigators almost certainly would look to Eteri Tutberidze, who coaches the three Russian women

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Philadelphia	34	23	.596	—
Boston	34	26	.567	1 1/2
Toronto	32	25	.561	2
Brooklyn	31	27	.534	3 1/2
New York	25	34	.424	10

SOUTHEAST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Miami	37	21	.638	—
Charlotte	29	30	.492	8 1/2
Atlanta	28	30	.483	9
Washington	26	31	.456	10 1/2
Orlando	13	47	.217	25

CENTRAL				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Chicago	38	21	.644	—
Milwaukee	36	23	.610	2
Cleveland	35	23	.603	2 1/2
Indiana	20	40	.333	18 1/2
Detroit	13	45	.224	24 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	41	19	.683	—
Dallas	34	24	.586	6
New Orleans	23	35	.397	17
San Antonio	23	36	.390	17 1/2
Houston	15	42	.263	24 1/2

NORTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Utah	36	22	.621	—
Denver	33	25	.569	3
Minnesota	31	28	.525	5 1/2
Portland	25	34	.424	11 1/2
Oklahoma City	18	40	.310	18

PACIFIC				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Phoenix	48	10	.828	—
Golden State	42	17	.712	6 1/2
L.A. Clippers	29	31	.483	20
L.A. Lakers	27	31	.466	21
Sacramento	22	38	.367	27

THURSDAY'S RESULTS				
Miami at Charlotte, late				
Washington at Brooklyn, late				
Dallas at New Orleans, late				
Philadelphia at Milwaukee, late				
Houston at L.A. Clippers, late				

FRIDAY'S ALL-STAR EVENTS				
2022 Rising Stars Challenge				
Team Isaiah vs Team Worth, 9p.m.				
Team Barry vs Team Payton, 9:30p.m.				

SATURDAY'S ALL-STAR EVENTS				
All-Star Practice, 11a.m.				
NBA x HBCU Classic, 2p.m.				
State Farm All-Star Saturday Night				
-Skills Challenge (first event)				
-3-Point Contest (second event)				
-Slam Dunk (third event)				

SUNDAY'S EVENTS				
Legends Awards, noon				
G League Next Gem Game, 2p.m.				
71st NBA All-Star Game, 8 p.m.				

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS				
Winnipeg 6, Minnesota 3				
Florida 3, Carolina 2 (OT)				
Calgary 2, Anaheim 2				
Colorado 2, Vegas 0				

THURSDAY'S RESULTS				
Detroit at N.Y. Rangers, late				
Ottawa at Buffalo, late				
Pittsburgh at Toronto, late				
St. Louis at Montreal, late				
Washington at Philadelphia, late				
Boston at N.Y. Islanders, late				
Seattle at Winnipeg, late				
Columbus at Chicago, late				
Anaheim at Edmonton, late				
Vancouver at San Jose, late				

FRIDAY'S ALL-STAR EVENTS				
2022 Rising Stars Challenge				
Team Isaiah vs Team Worth, 9p.m.				
Team Barry vs Team Payton, 9:30p.m.				

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Friday: at Xavier,
7 p.m., SNYMEN'S BASKETBALL
Saturday: vs. Xavier (at
Gampel), noon, FOX**UCONN**
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UCONN MEN'S HOCKEY

Jonny on the spot

Evans is at the center of the surging Huskies as they prepare to square off against the defending champs

By Dom Amore
Hartford Courant

UConn's emergence in men's college hockey, the slow climb since joining one of its premier conferences, has led the Huskies to the door at the top of the stairs.

UMass, the defending national champions, comes to Hartford to start a two-game series with first place in Hockey East on the line.

"This is exactly what we've strived for since I came here to UConn," said Huskies coach Mike Cavanaugh in his ninth season. "This was my expectation, this is what my vision was, to play in these games late in February."

The Huskies (16-11, 12-6 Hockey East) have won six conference games in a row and eight of their last nine. They cracked the national rankings this week at No. 20 in the U.S. College Hockey Online poll — the first time UConn has been in the rankings in men's and women's basketball and hockey at the same time.

As the weekend begins, UConn, with 35 points, is two behind league leaders UMass and UMass-Lowell, with Boston University also at 35.

UConn and UMass play at the XL Center in Hartford on Friday night at 7 p.m. with more than 3,000 tickets sold and a large walk-up anticipated. Game 2 moves to Amherst on Saturday night (7:30 p.m.). This will be the third time the Huskies have faced a defending champ in the Cavanaugh era, beating Union in 2014 and losing two to Providence in 2016.

UMass (16-9-2, 11-5-2) is currently 10th in the USCHO poll and ninth in the USA Today poll.

"They're defending champs and we want to know we can compete with a top team — and they're a top-10 team right now," UConn senior Jonny Evans said. "I feel like we get doubted a lot, so we just wanted to go out there and play our game."

The Huskies took off in January when Cavanaugh shuffled his lines. The first line of Jachym Kondelik, Vladislav Firstov and Kevin O'Neil has led the way. Evans, the Hockey East scoring champ last year, got off to a slow start. He was moved back to his



Evans

old position, center, on a line with fellow seniors Marc Gatcomb and Carter Turnbull and has three goals and two assists since the switch on Jan. 14. UConn has gotten scoring from all four of its lines, outscoring

New Hampshire, Merrimack and Boston College 18-7 in the last three games.

"I certainly like results," Cavanaugh said. "I'd like to say a lot of thought, conversation went into it, but I was just trying to get Jonny going. When I recruited him he was playing center, he hasn't played a lot of center here. At the time, I thought Jonny was pressing, and I was trying to give him a different look, take his mind off not scoring ... contribute to our team in winning faceoffs, playing great defense, and let's see where that takes you. Marc and Carter have played extremely well on that line with Jonny."

Evans and Kondelik have had daily face-off battles for team bragging rights, making both better.

Though he won't approach last season's numbers when he had 14 goals and 15 assists in 29 games, Evans is happy to be part of a UConn team that has a chance for a breakthrough.

"There really wasn't pressure (to score)," he said. "Maybe people put that on me, but I really don't look at points, honestly. I look at the team and how the team's doing. No one cares who scores, we're all buying in. That's the great thing about this team."

The Minutemen bring a blue-collar mentality with high-end talent. "And that's a formula for winning," Cavanaugh said.

"It's going to be an incredible test for our team," Cavanaugh said. "The last couple of years, they've been the class of the league, a solid team from top to bottom."

It's a test the Huskies are determined to pass, at a time they've turned a corner.

"We know UMass plays hard and fast and we've go to match that," Evans said. "... Or maybe have them match us."

Dom Amore can be reached at damore@courant.com

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY

Rocky Hill co-op team offers support to fellow student suffering from brain cancer

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

Rocky Hill co-op ice hockey coach Dave Dubos is always telling his kids to play for something greater than themselves.

So the team decided to do a cancer charity game. Dubos, a health and physical education teacher at Rocky Hill, signed the Terriers up for a fundraiser on the American Cancer Society's site. One of his students, Andrew Spada, is suffering from glioblastoma multiforme, a type of brain cancer, and he wanted to help Spada and his family.

Some of his players are friends with Spada, a junior at Rocky Hill who plays lacrosse. The Terriers have made him an honorary ice hockey player, presented him with a specially made jersey and FaceTimed him before games.

The Terriers are hoping Spada and his family will be able to make it to their Hockey Fights Cancer game against New Milford on Saturday at Champions Ice Rink in Cromwell (4:50 p.m. start). So far, they have raised \$8,178, second in the country out of 48 teams, as part of the Hockey Fights Cancer fundraiser.

At the request of Spada's parents, they have also raised money for Connecticut Children's Medical Center with "Terriers Fight Cancer" shirts. The school

has also raised money selling "Spada Strong" shirts.

"When we decided to do this, we also thought, 'How can we tie in support for this student?'" Dubos said.

"I know the family well. I had his sisters in elementary school and high school as a teacher and [Spada] was in my class last fall. He is really battling for his life."

The Rocky Hill team, which is 6-10-1 this season, draws players from Middletown, Plainville and Haddam-Killingworth.

"Some of the kids on the team are friends with him and grew up with him," Dubos said. "We wanted to make him an honorary member of the hockey team, even though he's a lacrosse kid. We have what we call a brotherhood, and we really wanted to make him part of that."

Sophomore center Dominick Violette has been friends with Spada his whole life.

"We're family friends, I even call his mom 'Auntie Donna,'" Violette said. "He loves sports. He was going to play lacrosse his freshman year, but he couldn't because he got cancer. We FaceTimed him before our second game of the season and we won. It was our first win of the season and we were so happy."

The team also put gray ribbons on their helmets, signifying brain cancer awareness.

"I text him," Violette said. "He appreciates everything we do for him. I'm like, 'You don't have to thank us, we're doing this for you.'"

Tyler Poulin, a junior defender, has been friends with Spada since second grade.

"It's been an honor," Poulin said. "We did a car parade for him. We gave him a jersey. Just seeing the impact on him was really good. It just shows you how a band of brothers can get together and make a guy feel better."

Dubos said he's been "blown away" by the support his team has received and thankful that his kids are learning life lessons along with hockey.

"I tell them, 'It's more

than a sport. Be thankful for the opportunity to be able to play,'" Dubos said. "I say, 'Make it something bigger than you.' We always talk about 'Play for the guys to the right or the left of you. It's never about yourself.' It's been a great opportunity and lesson for the kids."

To donate, go to the American Cancer Society's Rocky Hill hockey team page at https://secure.acsevents.org/site/STR/ACTIVEFundraising/CFPCY22VirtualEvents?team_id=2611506&pg=team&fr_id=101634.

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UConn women at Xavier

Time: 7 p.m.

Site: Cintas Center

Series: UConn leads 4-0

Last meeting: No. 10 UConn 78, Xavier 41, Jan. 15, 2022 in Hartford, Conn.

TV: SNY (Allen Bestwick, Meg Culmo, Maria Marino)

Live Stream: In-market SNY viewers with access to the network can watch via the NBC Sports app: stream.nbcspor.com/rsn/sny. Out-of-market viewers can watch on the Fox Sports App or at www.foxsports.com as well as on the FOX Now app or at www.fox.com/sports. The games might not appear on those sites until right around tipoff.

Radio: UConn IMG Sports Network on 97.9 ESPN (Bob Joyce, Debbie Fiske)

Xavier probable starters, sixth man

Yayanna Townsend, F, 6-2, R-Jr.; Shaila Beeler, G, 5-7, Jr.; Mackayla Scarlett, G, 5-10, So.; Shelby Calhoun, G, 5-11, So.; Aanaya Harris, G/F, 5-11, Fr.; Courtney Prenger, F, 6-1, Jr.

UConn probable starters, sixth man

Christyn Williams, G, 5-11, Sr.; Dorka Juhász, F, 6-5, Gr.; Nikla Mühl, G, 5-10, So.; Aaliyah Edwards, F, 6-3, So.; Azzi Fudd, G, 5-11, Fr.; Evina Westbrook, G, 6-0, R-Sr.

The matchup

UConn's offense: The Huskies have had to recalibrate a bit with Nelson-Ododa and Ducharme out. Fudd has assumed much of the scoring load, scoring at least 24 points in three of the last four games. Against Xavier in January, Ducharme (20), Williams (19) and Nelson-Ododa (11) led UConn in scoring.

UConn

from Page 1

"very impulsive, emotional player, and sometimes [her emotions] get the best of her and she gets herself in a jam." But as the season has progressed, Mühl has learned to channel that energy in a productive way rather than have it result in turnovers or unnecessary fouling.

Mühl's steadiness has been especially important given how shorthanded the Huskies have been in the backcourt most of the season. With Azzi Fudd, Christyn Williams, Caroline Ducharme and Paige Bueckers all missing time, she has needed to become a rock on both ends.

Mühl has had to take on a bigger facilitator role with Bueckers out, but she thrives

UConn's defense: The Huskies' defense has been mostly good this season, including the final three quarters their last time out against Marquette. When UConn last played Xavier, UConn's defense shined, forcing 24 turnovers and holding the Musketeers to 27% shooting.

Xavier's offense: Xavier scored a season-low 41 points against UConn in January. The unit averages 64.6 points on 39.8% shooting on the season. Nia Clark and Kae Satterfield are the only Musketeers averaging double figures on the season, but they both haven't played since early February.

Xavier's defense: The Musketeers allow 74.2 points per game on 42.9% shooting, as well as a 36.8% clip from 3. These are among the worst marks in the nation, per Her Hoop Stats.

UConn keys: More of a season-long one than a specific game one, but Auriemma said that the fourth quarter of Sunday's game at Marquette was "as well as we've played this year." Now, the Huskies must push to play that way for three or four quarters, and reduce the length of their lulls.

Players to watch: Will Ducharme and/or Nelson-Ododa see time, and if so, how much? Nelson-Ododa (groin) has missed the previous three games, while Ducharme (head) has been sidelined the last four. Nelson-Ododa was seen practicing Wednesday, while Auriemma said Ducharme did about 10 minutes of practice as well.

About Xavier's coach: Melanie Moore is in her third season at Xavier, her first gig as a head coach, and entered 2021-22 with a 8-37 record. Her previous stops on the coaching trail included Michigan and Princeton.

Xavier's mascot: D'Artagnan, Blue Blob

Famous alumni: Politician Ken Blackwell, former NBA player David West, former politician and baseball Hall of Famer Jim Bunning

when getting the Huskies out in transition and has improved as a game-manager and decision-maker, recording at least five assists in each of the last five games and oftentimes awing fans with her no-look passes.

Scoring is more of a bonus when it comes to Mühl's game (4.2 points per game on 38.6% shooting, 28.3% from 3), though she says Bueckers keeps encouraging her to shoot even when Auriemma tells her to pass.

When Ducharme and Bueckers return, Auriemma will have a plethora of guards to work with, including multiple go-to scorers. Even when that time comes, it's clear that Mühl will maintain a sizable role on this team — impulsiveness, passion and all.

Alexa Philippou can be reached at aphilippou@courant.com

LATE WEDNESDAY UCONN 70, SETON HALL 65

Seton Hall M FG FT RB A PF PT

Rhoden 34 6-13 0-0 1 1 4 14

Richmond 31 6-13 0-0 1 4 4 13

Cale 36 4-7 1-0 4 2 4 11

Obiagw 20 2-4 1-1 1 0 3 5

Jackson 15 1-4 0-0 1 0 0 2

Harris 19 5-8 2-3 1 1 4 15

Yetha 25 1-4 1-2 8 1 1 3

Samuel 20 1-8 0-0 0 0 0 2

TOTALS 26-61 4-6 31 9 20 65

Three-point goals: 9-23, 39.1 (Cole 3-4, Harris 3-5, Rhoden 2-4, Richmond 1-4, Jackson 0-1, Samuel 0-2, Yetha 0-3). FG pct.: 42.6. FT pct.: 66.7. Team rebounds: 2. Turnovers: 10 (Rhoden 2, Yetha 2, Richmond 2, Cole, Jackson, Harris). Blocks: 3 (Obiagw 2, Rhoden 1, Cole 1, Jackson 1, Yetha 1). Steals: 5 (Rhoden 2, Cole 1, Jackson 1, Harris 1, Yetha 1).

UConn M FG FT RB A PF PT

Sanogo 34 9-17 2-5 16 2 1 14

Martin 36 5-13 5-6 10 1 1 16

Cole 35 7-12 1-4 3 3 2 16

Whaley 35 3-9 0-0 2 2 3 7

Jackson 29 2-3 0-1 4 6 1 4

Hawkins 14 1-3 2-2 3 0 0 0

Polley 12 0-2 0-2 0 0 0 2

Gaffney 5 0-1 0-0 0 1 0 0

TOTALS 27-60 12-20 41 15 9 70

Three-point goals: 4-18, 22.2 (Whaley 1-3, Hawkins 1-3, Cole 1-4, Martin 1-5, Jackson 0-1, Polley 0-1, Gaffney 0-1). FG pct.: 45.0. FT pct.: 60.0. Team rebounds: 3. Turnovers: 10 (Cole 3, Sanogo 2, Martin 2, Jackson 2, Gaffney 1). Steals: 6 (Sanogo 2, Martin 2, Whaley 2, Jackson 1, Gaffney 1). Blocks: 2 (Whaley 1, Polley 1).

Seton Hall 27 38 - 65

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NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Shiffrin: 'I'm really disappointed'

There was simply no way to predict this. Not for anyone, including Mikaela Shiffrin herself. That the American skier would go 0-for-5 in individual races at the Beijing Olympics, leaving without a medal from any and with a best showing of ninth place, was hard enough to imagine beforehand. That she wouldn't even manage to finish three of those events — the three that are her best, including Thursday's Alpine combined — was among the most surprising developments of the entire 2022 Games. "I'm certainly questioning a lot," Shiffrin said. "I'm really disappointed. And I'm really frustrated." She arrived in China as one of the biggest stars of ski racing — or any sport. Owner of three Olympic medals, two golds and a silver. Six world championship golds. Three overall World Cup titles. Still, the 26-year-old from Colorado just never displayed her enviable technique and talent or big-moment gumption at these Games. Shiffrin's latest subpar performance came in the second leg of the combined. She was fifth-fastest in the downhill and in contention for gold. But in the slalom, trouble came after about 10 gates and 10 seconds. Shiffrin lost her balance, couldn't regain it and ended up landing on her hip.

Villeneuve into his 1st Daytona 500



Jacques Villeneuve has a Formula One title to his name and an Indianapolis 500 victory. He has nothing left to prove and yet celebrated as if qualifying for the Daytona 500 was the biggest win of his career. The 50-year-old doubted he could make it into the race through Wednesday night's time trials at Daytona International Speedway. His Ford wasn't particularly fast and needed three tries to pass NASCAR inspection. So when he posted the fastest time of the six cars eligible in time trials to earn a spot in Sunday's field, Villeneuve erupted in joy and jogged his way down pit lane in search of his crew. "As long as it carries on like this, I can't imagine stopping racing," said Villeneuve, who failed to qualify for the Daytona 500 in his only other attempt 14 years ago. Reigning Cup champion Kyle Larson earned the pole and will lead Hendrick Motorsports teammate Alex Bowman to the green Sunday. Noah Gragson, who was born a year after Villeneuve won his 1997 F1 title, also earned a spot Wednesday. Thursday night's Duels, which ended too late for this edition, set the rest of the lineup.

Djokovic gets warm welcome in Dubai

Serbian tennis star Novak Djokovic on Thursday received a warm welcome in Dubai, where he visited the world's fair following the global drama around his decision to remain unvaccinated. After being twice detained and deported from Australia ahead of the year's first Grand Slam Tournament last month, Djokovic was in the United Arab Emirates for the Duty Free Tennis Championships. "I'm excited to go out on the tennis court next Monday," he said when asked by The Associated Press how he feels after the recent twists and turns of the legal dispute over his travel visa. "I miss tennis honestly after everything that has happened." Djokovic this week doubled down on his decision to stay unvaccinated. The No. 1-ranked tennis player said he would skip the French Open, Wimbledon and other tournaments if he was required to get a coronavirus vaccine to compete. Djokovic reiterated in an interview with Serbia's state RTS television on Thursday that he keeps "an open mind" about the possibility of getting vaccinated in the future but remains willing to miss upcoming majors because of his refusal to do so. "I am not exclusive, anything is possible in life," he said. "I decided at this moment not to do it and I am ready to bear consequences."

—Associated Press



Marie-Philip Poulin celebrates after scoring during Canada's 3-2 win over the U.S. in Thursday's gold-medal game. JAE C. HONG/AP

OLYMPICS WOMEN'S HOCKEY

They're as cold as ice

Canada controls final, takes back gold medal from US

By John Wawrow

Associated Press

BEIJING — Marie-Philip Poulin reminded everyone of her Captain Clutch reputation. And Canada regained its place atop the women's hockey world.

It was only fitting that Poulin delivered at a time her team needed it most by scoring twice, including her third Olympic gold-medal clinching goal, in Canada's 3-2 win over the defending champion United States at the Beijing Games on Thursday.

After winning gold in her first two Olympics, Poulin learned to appreciate how significant capturing her third was, coming four years after losing it to the Americans at the Pyeongchang Games.

"I just got shivers," she said.

"That 2018 was very hard, very, very hard. And I think when you take some time to reflect on what you need to do better as a team and personally," Poulin added. "We did that and I'm very happy that we're resilient and we're able to put that back in the past and win that gold today."

Ann-Renee Desbiens stopped 38 shots and Sarah Nurse had a goal and assist in a game where the Canadians built a 3-0 lead and hung on for the win. Nurse set the single Olympic tournament record with 18 points.

The Canadians finished 7-0 by showcasing a dynamic, deep and relentless offensive attack to capture their fifth Olympic title in seven tournaments,

with four coming against the Americans in what has been one of sports' fiercest and longest-running rivalries.

Canada can now boast holding both the Olympic and world championship titles at the same time, and for the first time since 2012. The win at Beijing comes nearly six months after Poulin's overtime goal sealed Canada's 3-2 victory over the U.S. at worlds, which ended the Americans' run of winning five consecutive tournament titles.

"It was a long haul of silvers and a lot of soul-searching in the program," said Brianne Jenner, named the tournament MVP for tying a single Olympic record with nine goals. "This group didn't really shy away from it. We were like, 'Let's be bold, let's be brave, let's go out and see what we can do.'"

Hilary Knight, the Americans' only consistent threat in the tournament, scored her team-leading sixth goal on a shorthanded rush to cut the deficit to 3-1. Amanda Kessel scored with 13 seconds left during a mad scramble in front for a power-play goal and with the U.S. net empty for an extra attacker.

"We can't get down that many goals," Knight said. "It's devastating. It's heartbreaking... It feels like we let our country down."

Alex Cavallini stopped 18 shots in her fourth tournament start.

The Americans, who have two Olympic golds, settled for their fourth silver medal, with all losses coming against Canada.

Poulin gained her nickname by scoring decisive goals in big games and especially against the Americans. She scored both goals in Canada's 2-0 gold-medal win over the U.S. at the 2010 Vancouver Games. Four years later at

Sochi, Poulin scored in overtime to seal the gold versus the Americans again.

On Thursday, Poulin staked the Canadians to a 2-0 lead with 4:34 left in the first period, and then made it 3-0 off an odd-man rush 9:08 into the second period. Nurse drove up the right wing and fed Jenner, whose slapper was stopped by Cavallini. The rebound caromed to Poulin, who immediately fired a shot from the left of the net and banked it in off Cavallini's skate.

"Woo, I don't know. I don't know what's happening," Poulin said of her knack for clutch goals. "There's some angel there or something."

And yet, Poulin had her anxious moments before she could celebrate. She was in the penalty box for tripping when Kessel scored in the closing seconds — but only after Desbiens stopped the first five shots she faced during the power play.

Fitting for Poulin was standing next to Desbiens in the medal line and having the honor of draping the gold around the goalie's neck.

"She showed up in those big moments," Poulin said of Desbiens, who quit hockey after 2018 before being coaxed into rejoining the team.

It's been a bumpy road back for the Canadians, who were forced to reinvent themselves in three years under coach Troy Ryan. The low point followed Canada settling for bronze at the 2019 world championships, which marked the first time in tournament history it failed to reach the title game.

At Beijing, the Canadians out-classed the field by outscoring opponents by a combined margin of 57-10, including a 4-2 win over the U.S. in group play last week.

OLYMPICS WOMEN'S FIGURE SKATING

World champion rises to occasion

By Dave Skretta | Associated Press

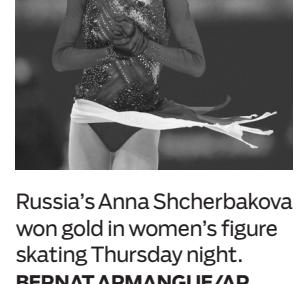
BEIJING — A Russian woman was standing atop the figure skating podium at the Beijing Games on Thursday night.

It just wasn't the one anyone expected.

Even the fact that there was a podium was a surprise.

Anna Shcherbakova, the overlooked world champion, delivered a clean performance in her free skate at historic Capital Indoor Stadium to win a stunning gold medal, while teammate Kamila Valieva — at the center of the latest Russian doping controversy — tumbled out of the medals altogether with a mistake-filled end to her Olympic dream.

"I still haven't realized that my Olympic Games have ended. I just know that I skated clean," said Shcherbakova, who was second behind Valieva after the short program. "I am so happy that I still haven't realized the result."



Russia's Anna Shcherbakova won gold in women's figure skating Thursday night.

BERNAT ARMANGUE/AP

Shcherbakova landed both of her quads to finish with 255.95 points, edging out another teammate, Alexandra Trusova, who landed five somewhat shaky quads of her own. Trusova finished four points back in second place but wasn't pleased with the judges, especially given the difficulty of her program.

"I am not happy with the result," said Trusova, who, like Valieva, was sobbing afterward. "There is no happiness."

Kaori Sakamoto of Japan was happy. She took bronze to break up an expected Russian sweep of the Olympic podium.

"I don't have the big jumps as others would have, which is a big handicap," said Sakamoto, who doesn't have a four-rotation quad in her arsenal but hit the cleanest triple axel of the Olympics. "That means I had to have perfect elements."

She did Thursday night, too. Just like Shcherbakova.

With the fewest quads among controversial coach Eteri Tutberidze's "Quad Squad," the 17-year-old instead relied on back-to-back clean programs with peerless artistry and unmatched skill. It culminated in her free skate Thursday night, when Shcherbakova landed her opening quad flip-triple toe loop combination and never looked back.

She followed Adelina Sotnikova and Alina Zagitova in giving her nation three straight women's figure skating gold medals.

"The importance of this is so huge that I cannot fully understand it yet. At the moment I have only felt the happiness from the fact that I was able to do everything I am capable of in my program," Shcherbakova said. "I still haven't realized that the competition has finished and this is the result. I haven't understood what has happened."

Meanwhile, Valieva was inconsolable in the kiss-and-cry area. The 15-year-old phenom was heavily favored to win gold but is headed home with nothing from the women's program and a looming investigation into her positive drug test.

Valieva was shaky on an opening quad salchow, then stepped out on a triple axel and fell altogether on a quad toe loop-triple toe loop combination. Valieva fell again on her other quad toe loop, keeping her from completing that combination, and spun out on another jump late in the program — though by that point, her fate was sealed.

She didn't speak to reporters after a performance that made Shcherbakova's look even better.

"I watched Kamila but probably did not understand what I was experiencing," Shcherbakova said. "Of course, I was very nervous for her because from the very first jump it was clear that the skate is going very hard and I understand perfectly what an athlete feels at those moments."

Moments after Valieva departed the arena, workers began setting up for a flower ceremony that the International Olympic Committee said wouldn't take place if she was in the top three. Medals will be handed out Friday in a ceremony that also wouldn't have occurred in Beijing had Valieva reached the podium.

Valieva had tested positive for a banned heart medication at the Russian championships in December, but the result wasn't revealed until last week, shortly after she helped to win a team gold medal that is now also in doubt.

She was cleared to compete earlier this week by the Court of Arbitration for Sport, which ruled that she had protected status as a minor and would suffer "irreparable harm" if she was not allowed to perform. The court did not rule on the full scope of the case, though, leaving that to anti-doping investigators in the future.

The court's decision cast a polarizing shadow over one of the marquee events of the Winter Games.

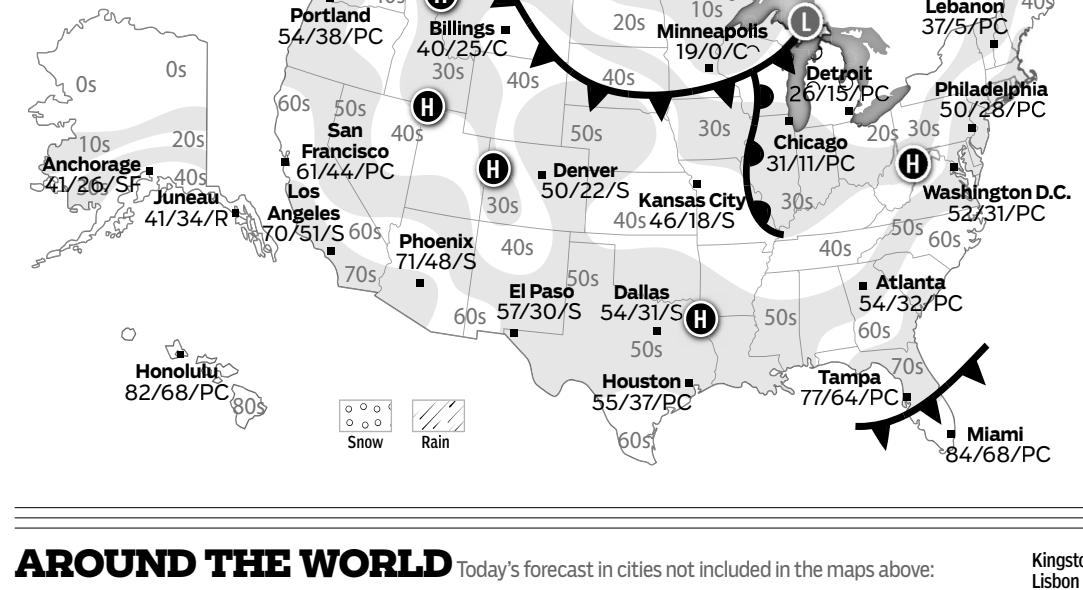
"Do I feel sorry for her? I don't think so. I wouldn't say so," Sakamoto said after her short program.

Valieva has claimed the drug triggering her positive, trimetazidine, entered her system by accident. But the World Anti-Doping Agency filed a brief stating that two other substances she acknowledged taking, L-carnitine and Hypoxen — though both legal — undercut the argument that a banned substance could have been ingested in error.

WEATHER

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	CONNECTICUT WEATHER
SUNRISE 7:00	SUNRISE 7:00	SUNRISE 7:00	SUNRISE 7:00	SUNRISE 7:00	     
NOON 12:00	NOON 12:00	NOON 12:00	NOON 12:00	NOON 12:00	     
SUNSET 5:15	SUNSET 5:15	SUNSET 5:15	SUNSET 5:15	SUNSET 5:15	     
Lingering showers ending, then becoming partly to mostly sunny, very breezy. Turning colder in the afternoon.	Mixed clouds and sun, some snow and rain showers are possible, breezy and very cool.	Mostly sunny, breezy and very cool.	Mostly sunny and milder.	Thickening cloudiness, chance for afternoon showers.	For the latest weather news throughout your day.
57° LOW 18°	39° LOW 16°	38° LOW 29°	53° LOW 32°	52° LOW 47°	   
					courant.com/weather

YOURCAST



AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND		Baltimore		Nashville		San Juan		Budapest		Kingston	
Bangor	38 4 PC	Baltimore	47 26 PC	Nashville	42 25 PC	San Juan	84 73 SH	Budapest	55 41 C	Kingston	88 72 PC
Burlington	25 10 PC	Bismarck	29 1 C	New Orleans	54 40 PC	Tucson	69 42 S	Buenos Aires	79 64 PC	Lisbon	63 46 PC
Caribou	24 5 PC	Boise	43 26 S	New York	48 28 PC	World	57 42 S	Buenos Aires	79 64 PC	London	52 37 C
Concord	41 8 PC	Buffalo	21 18 PC	Okla. City	53 29 S	Amsterdam	57 36 R	Dubai	76 52 PC	Madrid	66 43 S
Montpelier	23 5 PC	Charleston	38 23 PC	Orlando	55 15 S	Athens	64 43 C	Cancun	84 72 S	Cairo	67 52 PC
Mt. Wash.	15 10 PC	Cincinnati	27 17 PC	Pittsburgh	56 20 PC	Bangkok	91 79 T	Edinburgh	39 34 SN	Montreal	18 3 SN
Portland	43 12 PC	Cleveland	33 18 S	Raleigh	59 31 PC	Barbados	83 71 S	Helsinki	32 21 C	Philadelphia	50 28 PC
Woods Hole	46 21 PC	Indianapolis	77 49 C	St. Louis	40 20 S	Beijing	36 21 C	Hong Kong	63 52 C	Detroit	26 15/PC
		Jacksonville	68 46 S	Salt Lake City	47 29 PC	Tampa	67 54 PC	Istanbul	54 37 R	Washington D.C.	52 31/PC
		Las Vegas	60 46 S	Orlando	50 20 PC	Miami	77 64 PC	Jerusalem	59 48 S	Atlanta	54 32/PC
		Miami Beach	80 70 PC	San Antonio	59 36 S	Kingston	79 59 T	Johannesburg	79 59 T	Tampa	77 64/PC
		Albuquerque	53 29 S	San Diego	69 50 S	Kingston	80 70 T			Philadelphia	84 68/PC
		Atlantic City	51 19 SH	Bermuda	72 67 S					Baltimore	84 68/PC

KEY: **S** Sunny, **C** Cloudy, **PC** Partly Cloudy, **R** Rain, **SH** Showers, **SN** Snow, **SF** Snow Flurries, **T** T-storms

OUTLOOK

The National Weather Service has a High Wind Warning in effect until mid-morning for wind gusts up to 60 mph in eastern portions of the state and 50 to 55 mph elsewhere. Showers and a couple of thunderstorms will be accompanying the winds. As the day progresses, the wind will let up to just breezy conditions and the sky will become partly to mostly sunny. Temperatures which will start in the 50s will drop into the 30s during the afternoon. It will be seasonable this weekend. A few snow and rain showers are possible on Saturday, then Sunday will be mostly sunny.

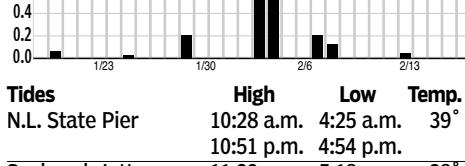
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00 0.11
Month to date	2.26 1.82
Total this year	4.09 5.10
Snowfall In Inches	
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0 0.6
Total this year	21.3 35.8

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

30-day Precipitation History In Inches



Tides

	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	10:28 a.m.	4:25 a.m.	39°
	10:51 p.m.	4:54 p.m.	

Saybrook Jetty

11:39 a.m.	5:18 a.m.	38°
p.m.	5:47 p.m.	

Connecticut River at Portland

2:06 a.m.	9:04 a.m.
2:22 p.m.	9:33 p.m.

Madison

11:56 a.m.	5:42 a.m.	37°
p.m.	6:06 p.m.	

New Haven

12:01 a.m.	6:06 a.m.	37°
12:16 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	

Stamford

12:05 a.m.	6:20 a.m.	37°
12:20 p.m.	6:44 p.m.	

River Stage at Hartford: 3.66 feet at 6:30 p.m.

Boating

L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B.I. Sound
Weather	VCloudy	VCloudy

Wind

W/NW, 15-30W/NW, 20-35	W, 20-35
Seas	3-5 ft.

Tides

3-5 ft.	4-7 ft.	9-14 ft.
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Air Quality Forecast For Today

50°	Moderate
Good	17
Air Quality Today	UV Index Today
Wind Chill Today	

Temperature

High	Low
62 at 1:09 p.m.	37 at 12:49 a.m.

Normal for date

39	21
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Record for date

64 in 1981	-6 in 1922
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A year ago</div